

**Prof. Maciej Żylicz, PhD habil.**  
President of the Board

Warsaw, 18 June 2020

**With this letter, I would like to stand shoulder to shoulder with more than 11 thousand researchers, science managers and EU citizens who have signed a petition urging to protect the funding of the European Research Council in the long-term budget of the EU.**

Being a relatively young institution, the European Research Council rapidly gained worldwide recognition. In common awareness, the ERC is recognized as granting funds to the best researchers and projects in Europe. With scientific excellence as its central selection criterion, it does accomplish its mission outstandingly.

As a researcher and President of the largest NGO funding scientific research in Poland, I supported the ERC with my expertise as a panel and identifying committees' member. The ultimate accumulation of talent and synergy achieved by interpersonal contacts and knowledge exchange could not be possible without a sound structure, careful procedures and stable budget.

In the face of major global challenges, including climate and demographic threats and the latest the COVID-19 epidemic, the ERC assumes societal and economic perspectives that can provide a quick and accurate response. All these aspirations can be fulfilled only with a correspondingly ambitious budget.

