

To the President-elect
Dr. Ursula von der Leyen
European Commission
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BELGIUM

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German Learned Societies call to reinstate the term “research” as a specific policy area of the EU Commission

Dear Madam President-elect,

The undersigned mathematical and scientific societies in Germany, the Deutsche Mathematiker Vereinigung (DMV, German Federation of Mathematicians), Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft (DPG, German Physical Society), Dachverband Geowissenschaften (DVGeo, the German umbrella organisation for Geosciences), Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh, German Chemical Society) and Verband Biologie, Biowissenschaften und Biomedizin in Deutschland (VBIO, German Life Sciences Association), call on you to express their great concern that “research” is not anymore explicitly represented as specific policy area of the new EU Commission.

In future, research will only be dealt with hidden under the heading of “Innovation and Youth”. This does not do justice to the inseparable link between research and innovation.

We therefore demand the EU Commission to reinstate the term “research” as a specific policy area of the EU Commission. We also call upon the European Parliament to request this change before confirming the nominees as commissioners.

We are convinced that, in view of the great challenges facing our societies, the future joint development of Europe urgently needs the sciences. Basic research plays a decisive role here, not only in Germany but also at the European and global level. The importance of basic research for our society is crucial. Without research, maths and science would not develop, science would not evolve. Findings from basic research are also fundamental to the achievements of our society, to technological progress and, of course, to innovation. Thus, promoting basic research for an increasingly deeper understanding of nature is a calculated and decisive means to long-term investment of our society for future generations.

Political decisions also have a special symbolic effect: The deletion of “research” as an agenda of EU commission sends a fatally misleading signal to the public about the seemingly minor value of research: the consequence undoubtedly will be that research and science will significantly lose their high appreciation, especially among young people.

Yours sincerely



Prof. Dr. Friedrich Götze
President
DMV, German Federation
of Mathematicians

Prof. Dr. Dieter Meschede
President
DPG, German Physical
Society



Prof. Dr. Jan Behrmann
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DVGeo, the German
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Prof. Dr. Wolfram Koch
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Prof. Dr. Gerhard Hazprunar
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VBIO, German Life Sciences
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