



La Présidente



Mrs Maria Da Graça CARVALHO
IRE Committee
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Subject : amendments « Horizon 2020 »

Paris, 25th June 2012

Dear Mrs. Da Graça CARVALHO,

For many years, the French National Institute for Agricultural Research, which I chair, has been playing an active role in building the European Research Area. Since 2010, I have also chaired the Governing Board of the Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI). In addition, since 2009 INRA has been a founding member of the Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) dedicated to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

For all these reasons, I share with you the conviction that the common strategic framework "Horizon 2020" will give fresh impetus to building the European Research Area. In this context, both INRA and the FACCE-JPI are following with great interest the elaboration of the "Horizon 2020" regulations, as we greatly appreciate the emphasis placed on the Bioeconomy and Agriculture. As such, we fully agree with the changes introduced by the May 31st Competitiveness Council, as well as with the amendments proposed in the report presented by Madam Deputy Madurell.

As I am seeking to contribute to the development of "Horizon 2020", this is to introduce several amendments you might usefully support, from our point of view.

Regarding the first title "establishment", and more specifically Article 4 related to the European Union added value, according to INRA "Horizon 2020" as a framework should keep on supporting scientific excellence. In this regard, INRA cannot approve the amendment proposed in Deputy Madurell's report. Since it states the "economic, social and territorial cohesion", this amendment appears to bring the article far away from its original aim by focusing on the cohesion policy.

On the other hand, as the chair of the Governing Board of the FACCE-JPI, and in full agreement with the JPI *Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans*, I appreciate that the Competitiveness Council has chosen to add an article 12a on joint programming, under Chapter II dedicated to programming. However, with regard to financing methods, I insist that any instrument that is part of "Horizon 2020" should be able to be mobilised.

Under Article 17, INRA also fully supports the emphasis on consistency with other EU programmes, including the CAP and Life +, as proposed by the Competitiveness Council on May 31st.

Under the same chapter, more particularly in the section on specific policy areas, Article 18 on small and medium enterprises has drawn my attention. Although SME participation in research projects may appear relevant, INRA believes that their participation should be part of the objective "Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies" rather than of the objective "societal challenges". Therefore, 20% of the budget for the participation of SMEs could be applied to the first objective, and 10% to the second.

Moreover, under Article 20 dedicated to public-public partnerships, the JPI which I chair, as well as the JPI *Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans* would like to call your attention to the real value of joint programming initiatives for the European Union. For this reason, we believe it should not overly restrict the financial participation of the European Union to these initiatives as we believe it would be beneficial to remove the words "of a limited nature," in the amendment from Madurell's report.

Regarding the same article, the FACCE-JPI as well as the JPI *Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans* consider the European Commission's "top up funding" should in no case be reserved for initiatives open to all member states ("*permanently open to participation from all member states*"). If this were to be adopted, such a provision would not agree with the conclusions of the Competitiveness Council of December 2008 that joint programming is based on two criteria: voluntary partnerships and variable geometry of Member States.

Finally, still in the same article, the two JPIs believe that, as with Article 12a (as it emerged from the partial general approach adopted by the Competitiveness Council on May 31st), all financial instruments under "Horizon 2020" must be mobilised without restriction.

Given your knowledge and your constant interest in these questions, I am certain that you will commit yourself to ensure that the "Horizon 2020" priorities agree as far as possible with the themes and objectives shared by INRA and by both FACCE and *Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans* JPIs. Please note that Isabelle ALBOUY, head of our European Affairs (tel: 33 (0)1 42 75 91 84), and Antoine Momot, my Parliamentary Advisor (tel.: 33 (0)1 42 75 91 95), are at your disposal to provide any clarification should you require.

We thank you in advance for the attention you will pay to this request.

Warmest regards,



Marion Guillou
President CEO of INRA
Chair du Governing Board of the FACCE-JPI

Attached: Proposed amendments (INRA, and FACCE and *Healthy and Productive Seas and Ocean* JPIs)