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## COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

### The Chairman

310561 30.06.2010

Members of the Committee on Industry,  
Research and Energy  
European Parliament  
Brussels

IPOL-COM-ITRE: D(2010)33301  
AA/sv

Brussels,

**Subject: The declaration from Trust Researchers initiative on simplification of the funding of European research - more trust, less red tape**

On 8 June 2010, a group of representatives of the Trust Researchers campaign (<http://www.trust-researchers.eu>) delivered to me a Declaration on the simplification of Seventh Framework Programme with more than 13 000 signatures and more than 2100 comments from 41 countries, demanding less red tape for EU funded scientific cooperation programmes.

The main intention of the initiators and supporters of Trust Researchers Declaration is to give a clear signal for a substantial change of European research funding in Europe. The Declaration describes five basic criterions that the system of European research funding shall meet:

#### **I. Mutual Trust**

Funding of research in Europe should be based on mutual trust and responsible partnering.

#### **II. Focused on research**

Research has to be funded according to the nature of research, meaning concentrated on output.

#### **III. Consistency**

The European Research Area (ERA) should benefit from a consistent vision shared by all actors for funding research throughout the different programmes that is avoiding all kinds of unnecessary technical and administrative details but instead promoting key funding principles based on an appropriate level of accountability.

#### **IV. Reliability**

Research and development is of utmost importance for Europe and its future oriented development. However, we need effective, reliable and stable funding principles to make it happen.

#### **V. Risk taking**

Research and innovation are risk taking activities. An appropriate level of tolerable risks is vital for success and should be supported by European research programmes.

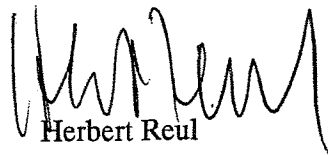
As a result the Trust Researchers initiative wants to achieve:

- effective funding for research facilitating ground breaking results that have straight forward positive impact on our society and economy;
- simplified research funding while keeping the necessary tasks of full financial accountability in dealing with tax payers money;
- harmonised standards of research funding at European and national level, thus avoiding all kinds of unnecessary technical details;
- stable legal framework throughout the different research and innovation programmes;
- tolerable risk concept being recognized as an important success factor in research and innovation and
- to involve the best scientists and all stakeholders needed.

The initiative asks the European Council of Ministers and the Parliament to urgently simplify the financial and administrative provisions related to the Framework Programme and other European funding instruments considering their important leverage effect for the competitiveness of the European Research Area.

I share the view of the Trust Researchers initiative: red tape and cumbersome financial regulations constitute a real threat to the future of the European research programmes and a further simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures is urgently needed. The Commission has already launched on 29 April 2010 a communication on simplifying the implementation of the Research Framework Programmes (COM(2010)0187) and the European Parliament will express its views on this issue in autumn 2010 in the report on simplifying the implementation of the Research Framework Programme, with Ms. Maria da Graca Carvalho as the Rapporteur. The first exchange of views on this report took place on 1 June 2010 and the consideration of draft report shall follow on 12 July 2010.

Yours sincerely,



Herbert Reul