

**Mr Carlos Moedas**  
Commissioner for Research, Science and  
Innovation  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
BE-1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

20 March 2018

Dear Commissioner, *Oliver Correas*

We wrote you a few days ago, expressing the growing concerns within BusinessEurope membership about a risk of narrowing down the budget and eligibility for industry-led projects and industrial technologies in the next EU framework programme for research and innovation ("FP9").

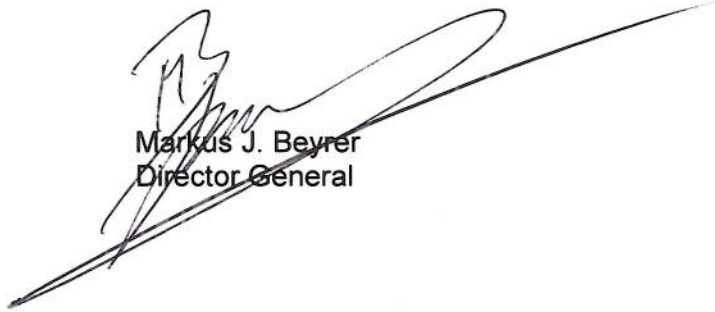
A draft version of the FP9 proposal has now been drawn to our attention. While BusinessEurope is usually not commenting on non-official leaked documents, we can say that the document has not reassured our membership, but the opposite. It seems to confirm that not only the 'industrial leadership' pillar would disappear, but also, contrary to Horizon2020, there seems to be no budget dedicated to industrial technologies and key enabling technologies. Such a move is the worst-case scenario. It removes from the next framework programme any certainty that the EU will have a targeted approach to foster cross-border industrial research. At a time when other major global players take determined actions in support of their industries, it is hard to understand why the EU would take the risk of putting into question an instrument which has been successful in raising industry participation after a constant drop until FP7.

We are deeply convinced that an 'industrial leadership' pillar, backed by an increased budget, must be kept in the FP9 proposal. Just a few months ago, the European Commission has published a renewed EU industrial policy strategy, with innovation as a cornerstone, for very good reasons. Removing, diluting or merging the 'industrial leadership' pillar from the EU flagship programme on research and innovation would question a coherent approach to EU industrial policy and be hardly understood by the business community.

We hope you will give due consideration to these views in the further preparation of the FP9 proposal and remain at your disposal to discuss further this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

  
Emma Marcegaglia  
President

  
Markus J. Beyrer  
Director General