

PRESS RELEASE
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A new SAM is born

LERU is pleased to learn that President Juncker today exchanged views with world-leading scientists on the funding of research and innovation, and the scientific support of EU policy development.

LERU welcomes the fact that the European Commission today consulted with several Nobel Prize winners about the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). A particularly important point was the discussion of how EFSI impact on the EU R&I budget can be minimised and how a real multiplier effect of resources for R&I can be created. After weeks of tension with the scientific community, this is a welcome and appreciated step.

Moreover, LERU is pleased that the Commission, upon proposals of Commissioner Moedas, reflected with leading scientists about the development of a new "Scientific Advice Mechanism" (SAM), aiming for an integrated approach to science-based EU policy making. We hope this new impulse will finally succeed in putting to bed a difficult discussion which has been going on for too long. LERU also welcomes the fact that the Commission plans to appoint a high-level group of scientists that will forge links with organisations with a proven track record of scientific expertise.

The LERU universities harbour among them a rich tapestry of academic expertise and practical experience with science-based policy making. LERU is eager to offer this knowledge to make the best use of scientific insight for policy making. The links between science and society have been a focal point of discussions within LERU recently. LERU is working on a position paper on science in, with and for society, which it expects to publish in the near future.

Prof. Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary-General LERU, states: *"An open and continuous dialogue between the scientific community and the EU policy makers is absolutely crucial and necessary. An important step has been made today. It will hopefully be followed by many others, so that society at large can fully benefit from the research it is, wisely and correctly, funding."*

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About LERU

The League of European Research Universities (LERU) is an association of twenty-one leading research-intensive universities that share the values of high-quality teaching within an environment of internationally competitive research.

Founded in 2002, LERU advocates education through an awareness of the frontiers of human understanding; the creation of new knowledge through basic research, which is the ultimate source of innovation in society; and the promotion of research across a broad front in partnership with industry and society at large.

The purpose of the League is to advocate these values, to influence policy in Europe and to develop best practice through mutual exchange of experience. LERU regularly publishes a variety of papers and reports which make high-level policy statements, provide in-depth analyses and make concrete recommendations for policymakers, universities, researchers and other stakeholders.

The LERU universities are:

- University of Amsterdam
- Universitat de Barcelona
- University of Cambridge
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Freiburg
- Université de Genève
- Universität Heidelberg
- University of Helsinki
- Universiteit Leiden
- KU Leuven
- Imperial College London
- University College London
- Lund University
- University of Milan
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
- University of Oxford
- Pierre & Marie Curie University
- Université Paris-Sud
- University of Strasbourg
- Utrecht University
- University of Zurich

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