An appeal from Nobel Laureates: Europe must invest in the science that will shape its future

To: the members of the European Council

Dear Presidents, Dear Heads of State and Government,

Europe stands at a defining moment. The decisions you take on the next Multiannual Financial Framework will shape not only the Union's priorities for the coming years, but also its capacity to generate knowledge, develop transformative technologies and secure its place in the world for decades to come.

We write to you as Nobel Laureates, united by the conviction that scientific discovery is one of humanity's greatest endeavours and one of Europe's most valuable strategic assets. We recognise the difficult circumstances in which you must make these decisions, but we are deeply concerned with the direction in which the negotiations are heading.

Europe cannot safeguard its future by underinvesting in the knowledge, talent and innovation on which that future depends. European leaders have rightly identified innovation, technological competitiveness and strategic autonomy as priorities, with Mario Draghi calling to double the research framework programme to €200 billion. Horizon Europe can contribute to strengthening industry and supply chains, helping Europe meet future challenges and driving breakthroughs in key technologies, such as artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, biotechnology, clean energy and advanced materials.

Fundamental research is particularly important in this regard. If we fund only what promises immediate returns, we risk losing the very breakthroughs that create entirely new fields, industries and possibilities.

Europe is also operating in an increasingly competitive global environment. The United States and China are investing heavily in research and technological development. Europe's research performance and industrial future cannot be secured through ambition alone. They require sustained commitment and investment on a scale commensurate with the challenge.

The EU budget should concentrate especially on things that individual Member States cannot do efficiently alone. European-scale Research and Innovation, incl. cross-border infrastructure and critical technologies incl. defence capabilities are obvious examples of European public goods. EU funding brings researchers and resources together across borders, while European competition raises standards and supports outstanding ideas wherever they emerge. There is also a clear reason to invest together because knowledge generated in one country can benefit people and businesses across Europe. Security and competitiveness should therefore not be seen as competing with solidarity. A richer, safer and technologically capable Europe is better able to sustain solidarity over time.

For these reasons, we urge you to ensure that the next Multiannual Financial Framework provides at least €200 billion in current prices for Horizon Europe over 2028–2034. This should be accompanied by robust support for the next generation of researchers through Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, a stronger European Research Council, and adequate funding for collaborative basic and applied research and innovation across the full spectrum of scientific disciplines.

Europe cannot afford to switch off the source of its future discoveries. The decisions made now will determine whether Europe helps shape the next generation of scientific and technological advances—or becomes increasingly dependent on others for them.

We urge you to choose ambition, invest in knowledge and give Europe's researchers the means to deliver a better future for all its citizens.

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned Nobel Laureates

Signatories

As of 18 November 2026

Nobel Laureate	Nobel Prize
Peter Hegemann	Physiology or Medicine, 2026
Joachim Frank	Chemistry, 2017
Gerardus 't Hooft	Physics, 1999
John Walker	Chemistry, 1997
Roger Kornberg	Chemistry, 2006
Edvard Moser	Physiology or Medicine, 2014
May-Britt Moser	Physiology or Medicine, 2014
Jerome Friedman	Physics, 1990
Ben Feringa	Chemistry, 2016
Roger Penrose	Physics, 2020
Morten Meldal	Chemistry, 2022
Paul Nurse	Physiology or Medicine, 2001
Didier Queloz	Physics, 2019
Johann Deisenhofer	Chemistry, 1988
Kurt Wüthrich	Chemistry, 2002
Richard J. Roberts	Physiology or Medicine, 1993
Reinhard Genzel	Physics, 2020
Klaus von Klitzing	Physics, 1985
Françoise Barré-Sinoussi	Physiology or Medicine, 2008
Hartmut Michel	Chemistry, 1988
Michael Levitt	Chemistry, 2013
Aaron Ciechanover	Chemistry, 2004
Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard	Physiology or Medicine, 1995
Jean-Marie Lehn	Chemistry, 1987
Torsten Wiesel	Physiology or Medicine, 1981
Phillip A. Sharp	Physiology or Medicine, 1993
Erwin Neher	Physiology or Medicine, 1991
Guido Imbens	Economic Sciences, 2021
John O'Keefe	Physiology or Medicine, 2014
Drew Weissman	Physiology or Medicine, 2023
Konstantin Novoselov	Physics, 2010
Roderick MacKinnon	Chemistry, 2003
Eric S. Maskin	Economic Sciences, 2007
David W. C. MacMillan	Chemistry, 2021
Charles M. Rice	Physiology or Medicine, 2020
Benjamin List	Chemistry, 2021
Arieh Warshel	Chemistry, 2013
Carolyn R. Bertozzi	Chemistry, 2022
Michael Woodford	Economic Sciences, 2026
Takaaki Kajita	Physics, 2015

Nobel Laureate	Nobel Prize
Peter Agre	Chemistry, 2003
Donna Strickland	Physics, 2018
Philippe Aghion	Economics, 2025
Mario Capecchi	Physiology or Medicine, 2007
Steven Chu	Physics, 1997
John Polanyi	Chemistry, 1986
Georg Nagel	Physiology or Medicine, 2026
Michel Mayor	Physics, 2019
Serge Haroche	Physics, 2012
Jennifer A. Doudna	Chemistry, 2020
Thomas Südhof	Physiology or Medicine, 2013
Richard Henderson	Chemistry, 2017
Jean-Pierre Sauvage	Chemistry, 2016
Francis Halzen	Physics, 2026
Anton Zeilinger	Physics, 2022
Anne L'Huillier	Physics, 2023
Oliver Hart	Economic Sciences, 2016
Giorgio Parisi	Physics, 2021
Carlo Rubbia	Physics, 1984
Stefan Hell	Chemistry, 2014
Peter Ratcliffe	Physiology or Medicine, 2019
Emmanuelle Charpentier	Chemistry, 2020
André Geim	Physics, 2010
Tim Hunt	Physiology or Medicine, 2001
Ferenc Krausz	Physics, 2023
Michael Houghton	Physiology or Medicine, 2020
Robert Huber	Chemistry, 1988
W. E. Moerner	Chemistry, 2014
Michael Rosbash	Physiology or Medicine, 2017
Martin Chalfie	Chemistry, 2008
Susumu Kitagawa	Chemistry, 2025
Yuan Tseh Lee	Chemistry, 1986
Gregg Semenza	Physiology or Medicine, 2019
Victor Ambros	Physiology or Medicine, 2024
Jack Szostak	Physiology or Medicine, 2009
Robert Engle	Economic Sciences, 2003
Craig Mello	Physiology or Medicine, 2006
John Mather	Physics, 2006
Simon Johnson	Economic Sciences, 2024
Pierre Agostini	Physics, 2023
Joseph Stiglitz	Economic Sciences, 2001