



Press statement: 11 September 2014

EUA comments on announcements concerning the next European Commission

On Wednesday 10 September, President-elect of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker [unveiled plans](#) for the shape of the next European Commission and notably the portfolios of the Commissioners which have been nominated to begin later this year*.

Commenting on the announcement, European University Association (EUA) Secretary General Lesley Wilson said: “For all of the reasons we outlined in our [recent statement](#) (7 September), we welcome the fact that the term education is explicitly mentioned in the proposed portfolios of the next Commission.

We now look forward, once the new team of Commissioners has been appointed, to meeting those who will have responsibilities in education, research & innovation and also in other key policy areas where universities have an important role to play in the coming years.” These include, for example, regional policy, regarding the implementation of ‘R&I smart specialisation strategies’; energy, in relation to EUA involvement in the SET-Plan; and digital economy, concerning the impact of the digital agenda in the university sector.

On behalf of its members (around 850 universities and national university associations from 47 countries), EUA therefore will continue to take forward its work with the next European Commission and also the recently elected members of the European Parliament to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard in key European policy debates.

EUA believes that a key priority for the new Commission will be to ensure the implementation of the EU-level investments in education and research to ensure the consolidation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the European Research Area (ERA).

**The [EC press release](#) highlights that the European Parliament still has to give its consent to the entire College of Commissioners, including the President and the High-Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission. This is preceded by hearings of the Commissioners-designate in the relevant parliamentary committees, and once the European Parliament has given its consent, the European Council formally appoints the European Commission.*

Ends.

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The European University Association, as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rectors’ conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA’s mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.