

Attention: news desks/science and education correspondents
Press Release
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Juncker fails to highlight research, innovation and higher education in plan to boost jobs and growth

The European University Association (EUA) deplores that research, innovation and higher education were hardly featured in European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's 2016 State of the Union address on 14 September. In the speech, Juncker set out a plan to strengthen investment to support jobs and growth, specifically through an extension and amplification of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).

Given the strong evidence that research, innovation and higher education are vital areas for investment in order to create jobs and growth in Europe, EUA believes that they should be given higher priority, especially considering President Juncker's explicit references to the importance of boosting competitiveness and of aiding young Europeans as main objectives of his plan. EUA strongly doubts that the European Commission's goals will be achievable without according the necessary political priority and additional funding to the knowledge creation and new skills needed to improve Europe's economy.

Regarding the renewal of EFSI with a longer duration and a larger budget, EUA has shown in its review, "[One year of EFSI: What's in it for universities?](#)," that the scheme is not benefitting the research and higher education sector. Investments through EFSI have not significantly contributed to the development of Europe's knowledge base or the development of Europe's human potential. The money would be better spent on ensuring sustainable and sufficient funding for highly successful grant programmes like Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+, which have proven to achieve significant added value.

Notes

To read the EUA review, "One year of EFSI: What's in it for universities?," [please click here](#).

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The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 36 national rectors' conferences (NRCs). The Council of EUA is comprised of the President, the members of the Board, and of the presidents of all of Europe's NRCs. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.