



Attention Newsdesks / Science Correspondents

For immediate Release

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### **Universities welcome European Parliament support to protect Research Funding**

The European University Association (EUA) has today (Tuesday) welcomed a report of two European Parliament committees which removes Horizon 2020 as a predetermined source of funding for the EU's European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).

In their joint report (published 20 April), the Committees on Budgets and Economic and Monetary Affairs propose to finance EFSI gradually in the annual budgetary procedure until it reaches €8 billion by 2022. This alters the Commission's original proposal to use Horizon 2020 as a primary source for the fund.

The Committee for Industry, Research and Energy followed the same line in its opinion on EFSI adopted last week.

Lesley Wilson, Secretary General of EUA said:

"EUA very much welcomes the efforts of MEPs to find alternative ways of supporting EFSI. The challenge, going forward, will be to avoid the Commission's proposed bulk cut to Horizon 2020 turning into year-on-year cuts determined by the EU's annual budget procedure.

"Europe's universities urge the European Parliament to remain committed to protecting European research throughout this process and call upon the European Commission and the Council of Ministers to reconsider the use of Horizon 2020 in subsequent negotiations.

"Investment in research and innovation is crucial for the competitiveness of Europe and its universities. That's why, together with its member national rectors' conferences, EUA will continue to monitor the process and voice the sector's concerns."

ENDS

#### **Notes**

1. Negotiations between the European Parliament and Council are to start on 23 April, with the aim of establishing a compromise to be voted by Parliament as a whole in June. This should allow EFSI to be operational by mid-2015, as proposed by the Commission.
2. Link to [EUA policy brief on EFSI](#)
3. The European Parliament press release on the Committee report is [available here](#).

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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.*