



ECPSA
European
Confederation of
Political Science
Associations



Brussels, March, 7th.
With addition from June 1st.

Dear Commissioner,

The European Association of Sociology (EAS), the European Confederation of Political Science Associations (ECPSA), the European Educational Research Association (EERA), the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) and the European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres (ECHIC) have welcomed your intention to improve the position of the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), as you have stated on several occasions since the British Academy meeting in November 2011.

Considering your clearly expressed political intent to support SSH, in line with the European Parliament and the Member States, we wish to express our strong concern about the implementation of H2020:

- The first available 2014-2015 work programs indicate that the share of SSH research in SC6 has diminished dramatically. Extrapolated to the whole Horizon 2020 period, the core SSH program in SC6 will be funded up to the amount of 300 Million Euros. This is less than half of the FP7 budget for SSH (625 Million Euros) and far removed from what has been claimed on many occasions prior to this. It is now also evident that the main share of the SSH Challenge has been allocated to other priorities: a third of the budget of SC6 has been given to DG CNECT, which already gets more than 7 billion Euros under Priority 2 and from other budgets elsewhere in various Societal Challenges, and a further third of the budget is allocated to “innovation research”. Such budgetary decisions are in complete contradiction to the proposals for the Specific Programme of H2020, which allows for large research activity for SSH in SC6 in support of several key policy areas developed in particular by DG EMPL, EAC, ECFIN, HOME, JUST, DEVCO, BEPA, ENV and EEAS.
- According to the call for proposals, the « mainstreaming policy » of SSH in other challenges, which was presented as an important complement to the specific challenge, rarely pertains directly to research in SSH. Instead the calls have a narrow utilitarian approach to SSH and fail to mobilise the breadth of relevant SSH research for societal challenges. The selection of experts similarly fails to draw the breath of relevant SSH expertise.

We hope that we are mistaken. We therefore ask for a meeting with you urgently in order to get some clarification from you regarding the situation detailed above and so that SSH core research in SC6 can be granted the key position that was agreed upon by the European Parliament and the Council.

Yours sincerely,



Carmen Leccardi
President of ESA



Pablo Oñate
President of ECPSA



Lejf Moos
President of EERA



Noel B. Salazar
President of EASA



Poul Holm
President of ECHIC

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This letter was Cc'ed to:

- Members of Parliament
- Members of the Programme Committee for Challenge 6 (H2020)
- Media in member states: La Repubblica, El Pais, Libération, Der Spiegel, The Times

Berlin, June 1st.

Dear Commissioner

On March 7th five associations forwarded the first part of this letter to you, expressing our strong concerns with the economical situation of SC6 and the 'mainstreaming policy' and with a request too you for a meeting. Unfortunately you could not find the time for a meeting on all items.

In the meantime we have had many reactions to the refusal to meet us as documented in the following list of associations/agencies/academies, who agree with us to urge you to reconsider having a meeting with us.

Yours sincerely,

Carmen Leccardi (ESA), Pablo Onante (ECPSA), Noel B. Salazar (EASA), Poul Holm (ECHIC), Lejf Moos (EERA) and Coordinator of EASSH (European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities)

Signatories

1. Agostino Paravicini-Bagliani, President of **Medievo Europeo**
2. Christof Mauch, President of **Foundation for Transatlantic Culture and Politics**
3. Christof Mauch, Director of **Rachel Carson Centre for Environment and Society**, RCC,
4. Aniceto Masferrer, President of **European Society for Comparative Legal History**, ESCLH
5. Karl Donert, President of **European Association of Geographers**, EUROGEO
6. Jennifer Edmond, Coordinator, **Collaborative European Digital Archival Research Infrastructure**, CENDARI
7. Linda Connolly, Chair of **Irish Social Sciences Platform**, ISSP
8. Stephen Anderson, Executive Director of **Academy of Social Sciences**, ACSS
9. Einar Thomassen, President of **European Association for the Study of Religion**, EASR
10. Simona Piattoni, President of **European Consortium for Political Research**, ECPR
11. Jouke van Dijk, President of **European Regional Science Association**, ERSA
12. Patrizia Resta, President of **Italian Association of Ethno-Anthropological Sciences**, AISEA
13. Isa Baud, President of **European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes**, EADI
14. Charalambos Kasimis, President of **European Society for Rural Sociology**, ESRS
15. Maurizio Viezzi, President of **European Language Council**, ELC
16. Dorothee Brantz, President of **European Association for Urban History**, EAUH
17. Dolly Jørgensen, President, **European Society for Environmental History** ESEH
18. Cristina Cacciari, President, **European Society of Cognitive Psychology**, ESCoP
19. Cristina Papa, President, **Associazione Nazionale Universitaria degli Antropologi Culturali**, ANUAC
20. Chris Meister, President, **European Association for Digital Humanities**, EADH
21. Ortrud Leßmann, Network coordinator, **Human Development and Capability Association**, HDCA
22. Katarzyna Dziubalska-Kolaczyk Peresident, **Societas Linguistica Europaea**, SLE
23. Mathias Middell, President, **European Network in Universal and Global History**, ENIUGH
24. Roger Greatrex, President, **European Association for Chinese Studies**, EACS
25. César Domínguez, General Coordinator, **Réseau Européen d'Études Littéraires Comparées**, REELC
26. Steven Krauwer, Executive Director, **Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure**, CLARIN ERIC
27. Fabio Bevilacqua, President, **European Society for the History of Science**, ESHS
28. Klaus Boers, Board, **European Society of Criminology**, ESC