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Scientists remind French President Hollande of the importance of EU research funding for France

A delegation of scientists hands over a petition with 153'000 signatures.

Shortly before Europe's leaders reconvene to decide on the EU budget for 2014-20, a delegation of scientists met with François Hollande, President of France, and Jean-Yves Mérimodol, advisor to the President, to remind them of the importance solid research funding has for the future and prosperity of France and Europe.

In the course of the meeting, which took place on Monday 4 February 2013 at a reception in honor of Serge Haroche, France's newest Nobel laureate, Mérimodol received the list of signatures of over 153'000 citizens (<http://www.no-cuts-on-research.eu>) and a joint letter from ERC and major European industry leaders who expressed their strong concern about possible cuts on the EU research budget.

Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, Nobel Laureate for Physics in 1997, and Michèle Leduc, President of the Association of French Learned Societies, who handed over the signatures on behalf of the proponents of the campaign, the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) and the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), were pleased about the positive reaction from Hollande and Mérimodol. Leduc added: "Now it is time for the heads of state or governments to turn words into action at the summit on 7/8 February."

In mid-November 2012, a delegation of ERC, ISE, YAE and two Nobel laureates had handed over more than 130'000 petition signatures to the Presidents of the EU Commission, Council and Parliament.



About ISE: (www.i-se.org)

Initiative for Science
in Europe **ise:**

The Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) is an independent platform of European learned societies and scientific organizations whose aim is to promote mechanisms to support all fields of science at a European level, involve scientists in the design and implementation of European science policies, and to advocate strong independent scientific advice in European policy making.

ISE is widely recognized for having played an instrumental role in the creation of the European Research Council (ERC), an instrument to foster and fund frontier research of the highest quality in all scientific disciplines at European level.



About YAE:

The Young Academy of Europe (YAE) is a dynamic group of top European young scientists with outspoken views about science and science policy. ERC Starting Grant grantholders founded YAE to represent the next generation of research leaders in Europe and create a platform for networking, scientific exchange and science policy.

<http://www.yacadeuro.org>

For more information about the Young Academy of Europe or to schedule an interview with one of the founding members please contact: press-office@yacadeuro.org.