

# CESAER

## STATEMENT ON BREXIT

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The United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) have a long history of collaboration in research, education and innovation, a relationship which has been enhanced by joint investment in programmes such as the EU Framework for Research & Innovation and Erasmus+ alongside a wider range of collaborations outside the EU, including the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Southern Observatory (ESO).

Progress on implementing the European Research Area (ERA) and developing a European Education Area (EEA) has been significant in recent years and continued collaboration is vital to produce knowledge societies with the potential to address global challenges such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Accord that transcend borders, culture and politics.

Given the world class research record of UK universities, they will be critical partners in addressing these challenges and CESAER urges the UK and the EU to prioritise the safeguarding of this productive relationship through association of the UK to the whole of Horizon Europe and of the successor of Erasmus+ after Brexit. In this sense, we welcome the Prime Minister calling for a “far-reaching pact” between the UK and the EU on science and innovation. Joint investment in research, education and innovation should be a win-win for both sides as long as the costs and benefits of UK participation provide advantages to both the UK and the EU. The alternative risks weakening the science and innovation base across Europe as a whole, making us all less competitive on a global scale.

Free circulation of knowledge and its bearers are necessary for the investment of both sides to reach its full potential. This requires effort on both sides to guarantee a solution that will enable the scientific community to continue to collaborate on a truly European scale and remain competitive on the global level. The post-Brexit immigration system must allow for scientists and students to work and study freely throughout the UK and the EU.

The EC presented its proposal for the EU’s Multi-annual Financial Framework from 2021 to 2027 in the beginning of May, including the details of the flagship research and innovation programme Horizon Europe. So far, there is no indication of the status of the UK in this programme, nor on the post-Brexit immigration system, leaving uncertainty for research, for scientists and for students in both the UK and the EU.

CESAER considers it in the mutual benefit of all parties for a solution to be found which enables deep and long-lasting collaboration after the UK leaves the EU and is committed to contributing to the further discussion throughout the Brexit process.

For more information, please contact our Communication Officer [Calum MacKichan](#).

[CESAER](#) is the European association of leading specialised and comprehensive universities of science and technology that: champion excellence in higher education, training, research and innovation; influence debate; contribute to the realisation of open knowledge societies; and, deliver significant scientific, social, economic, and societal impact.