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CESAER Elections 2025 – Endorsement for the candidacy of Michel Verleysen

To the CESAER General Assembly,

As Rector of Ghent University, former Board member and President of CESAER, and current delegate for Ghent University in the General Assembly, I am pleased to offer my full endorsement for the candidacy of Professor Michel Verleysen, Vice-Rector of the Science and Technology Sector at Université Catholique de Louvain, for election to the CESAER Board of Directors (2026–2029).

UCLouvain, like Ghent University and KU Leuven, is a comprehensive university with a strong focus on S&T, deeply embedded within a broader academic ecosystem that includes the social sciences and humanities. This integrated perspective – typical of the Belgian academic context, where S&T is not isolated but enriched through interdisciplinary collaboration – may, in my view, continue to inspire CESAER in its endeavour to fulfil its role as the strong and united voice of universities of science and technology in Europe.

Ghent University has long been committed to CESAER's mission, a commitment I have personally upheld through my previous roles on the Board and as President. Looking ahead, we see a unique opportunity to strengthen the Belgian contribution to CESAER through close collaboration among our three member universities. In this respect, Ghent University is eager to actively support Michel in his role as Director, should he be elected by the General Assembly.

In this way, we believe that not only will our universities benefit more fully from our involvement in CESAER, but that the association itself will also gain from our shared experiences, strategic alignment, and commitment to excellence.

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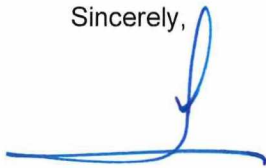
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Professor Verleysen holds a key leadership position at UCLouvain as Vice-Rector for the Science and Technology Sector, a role that is deeply embedded in the university's governance and closely connected to the Rector. We already enjoy an excellent working relationship with him, and I am confident that his collaborative spirit and strategic insight will be of great value to the CESAER Board.

On behalf of Ghent University, I wholeheartedly support Michel's candidacy and encourage fellow member universities to do the same.

Sincerely,



Rik Van de Walle
Rector