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Call for Continued Commitment to Basic Research and Open Collaboration

In light of recent international developments, and in view of the strategic role of research in shaping Europe's resilience and competitiveness, The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters urges all European research and innovation stakeholders to reinforce three fundamental principles for the benefit of Europe's future:

1. Basic Research as a Vital Pillar of the Knowledge Ecosystem. While innovation can arise from many sources, excellent frontier research across a broad scientific range remains a vital part of a thriving knowledge ecosystem. Blue-sky research opens new scientific frontiers and enables discoveries that would otherwise remain unexplored. Basic research lays the groundwork for high-risk innovation, supports new market creation, and strengthens research-based education, ensuring Europe's long-term competitiveness. Beyond driving innovation, a strong foundation of basic research enriches society more broadly: it cultivates critical thinking, contributes to a vibrant cultural and intellectual life and is central to the development and maintenance of a democratic society. This is particularly crucial in unpredictable times and for advancing transformative breakthroughs.

2. A Long-Term Perspective is Essential. History shows that the long-term impact of basic research is both transformative and profound, contributing not only to technological and medical advancements but also to societal, cultural, and intellectual progress. Many of today's most significant developments – whether in science, technology, health, and societal development – have their roots in basic research. Building strong and resilient research environments takes time, and without consistent support such ecosystems can be dismantled rapidly. Long-term, stable investment is essential to cultivate excellence, maintain continuity, and ensure that scientific discoveries translate into societal benefit.

3. Openness and Collaboration Remain Key. Europe must remain an open, autonomous and outward-looking continent. In today's complex geopolitical environment, continued global scientific co-operation and exchange are more important than ever. International collaboration has significantly enhanced the quality, visibility, and impact of European research. Equally important is engagement between universities and societal stakeholders more broadly - governments, industry, civil society, and citizens - ensuring that research and innovation are developed in synergy with societal needs. The EU's longstanding tradition of fostering interdisciplinary, cross-border, and intersectoral collaboration has been a defining strength for Europe and must be upheld and reinforced. Sustained openness is crucial not only to scientific excellence but also for building reciprocal, constructive and resilient knowledge ecosystems that advance Europe's role in tackling shared global challenges.

Videnskabernes Selskab

THE ROYAL DANISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND LETTERS

On behalf of The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters – signed by the President, the General Secretary, and the Vice Presidents.

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