

**EMBO**

Postfach 1022.40  
D-69012 Heidelberg  
Germany

Meyerhofstraße 1  
D-69117 Heidelberg  
Germany

Mr. Philippe Busquin  
Member of the European Commission  
European Commission  
B-1049 BRUSSELS

18th December, 2002.

Dear Mr. Busquin,

I have read with interest the communication on "More Research for Europe (Towards 3% of GDP)". I think that this is a very timely document and one that will help to maintain the momentum which was created by the Barcelona statement. Every action including this one, is helpful to ensure that the member states maintain their focus on this goal. From my calculations, it would appear that the government's contributions (ignoring those from industry and other sources) need to increase by approximately 15% for the EU 15 member states to reach their goal of approximately 1%. This is a challenge of some measure particularly as for some countries an increase of almost 100% is required in order to achieve the overall goal.

I have one suggestion apart from commending the document. Would it be possible to exclude from the stability pact calculations (related to the various criteria of expenditure by the member states that are within the Euro system) those costs related to R&D. Some countries (including those close to where I write) are having difficulties with the stability pact. This can become a disincentive to an investment in R&D at the very time when it should be increasing. By excluding the R&D spent from the stability pact, it may remove that barrier. This idea was presented by Etienne Emile Baulieu on behalf of some others at the Danish meeting. I think there is sense in this concept which you may have already received as a suggestion and if not, I hope that this acts as a stimulus to consider it in detail.

I would recommend that the Commission might establish some mid-term targets to allow the process of reaching the overall goal of 3% to be monitored. This would also reinforce the message that the goal is something of great importance for the future economic well being of Europe.

/2.....

Thanking you again for your efforts in this general area.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Gannon  
Executive Director, EMBO  
Secretary General, EMBC