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The Lord Ricketts GCMG GCVO  
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25 September 2024

Dear Lord Ricketts,

I am writing to inform you that on 26 September 2024, my department will be publishing a [Position Paper](#) setting out initial UK views on the EU's 10<sup>th</sup> Research and Innovation Framework Programme (FP10), the successor to Horizon Europe, which will run from 2028 to 2034. The Position Paper is attached for your reference.

The UK is pleased to have been associated to Horizon Europe since the start of 2024, and as such, we have been following the developments around its successor Programme with interest, whilst focusing on boosting our participation and uptake of Horizon Europe opportunities amongst the UK research and business community.

The document we are publishing tomorrow is therefore our first step in supporting the work of the EU and its Member States to develop an impactful next Research and Innovation Funding Programme which delivers science of the highest quality to the benefit of all participants. Research and innovation will be critical to growing the economy, seizing the opportunities of net zero, rejuvenating healthcare systems and creating opportunities for citizens, the world over.

As you will see in the Position Paper, it is our view that an FP10 that addresses the pressing global problems we all face, and directly improves people's lives, should be grounded in the principles of excellence and openness. Excellence will be key to harnessing the full potential of Europe's research and innovation capabilities across the entire research pipeline. It is critical to maintain the principle of openness through the equal participation of likeminded associated countries in all areas of the programme from its very conception, with exclusions removed wherever possible to ensure collaboration between likeminded partners on key technologies. This will enable the best research capabilities to work together to tackle shared challenges.

FP10 should also keep what works in Horizon Europe, with stable and predictable support so that all our researchers and innovators have a programme which they

understand and can easily access. Through a careful balance between curiosity-driven research and applied research and innovation, FP10 can remain flexible and responsive to future global challenges.

Having associated to Horizon Europe, we are keen to make UK participation in that Programme a success. We will continue to work with the research community, the EU, Member States and third countries to ensure that through our continued involvement in the European Framework Programmes, we can be at the forefront of what is a global competition, combining the deep strengths of our R&D systems for economic growth and resilience.

As such, the UK will, of course, be interested in potentially associating to FP10 assuming it is open, relevant and provides good value for our research community and the taxpayer. The UK Government will continue to follow developments on FP10 closely and will engage with the research sector, the EU and the Member States as this process moves forward over the coming months and years.

For information, this letter has also been sent to the respective chairs of the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee, the Science and Technology Committee, the European Affairs Committee, the Treasury Committee, the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee, and the Foreign Affairs Committee. I will place copies of this letter and the position paper into the Libraries of both Houses.

We are grateful for previous engagement by Select Committees on the Horizon Europe Programme and look forward to continued collaboration as plans for FP10 develop.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP

**Secretary of State Science, Innovation and Technology**