

Written evidence from Royal Society (HOR0002)

Follow-up submission to the House of Lords European Affairs Select Committee non-inquiry session on Horizon Europe Association

- Uncertainties arising from Brexit have already led to the UK missing out on [£1.5bn of research funding since 2016](#), according to some estimates.
- [Switzerland's experience of being shut out of Horizon 2020](#) for the first few years of the programme resulted in a significant decrease in projects led by Swiss participants and reputational damage.
- Evidence submitted to the [Smith-Reid Review \(2019\)](#) identified additional intangible benefits of programme participation including EU funding raising standards, accelerating research progress and increasing diversity of UK funding sources; providing access to advanced facilities and access to large data sets unavailable in the UK alone; helping to attract talented researchers to the UK; and opportunities to influence the future shape of EU research and innovation and influence technical standards that shape future regulation.
- The UK has an objective to become a 'global superpower', but this is in the context of competitors also making large increases to their domestic research budgets. The new German coalition has committed to increase government spending on R&D to 3.5% of GDP by 2025, and China's most recent 5 Year plan committing to a 7% year on year increase. The USA is preparing to invest an additional \$250 billion in core science and technology budgets, and France has announced that the budget of its National Research Agency will be trebled by 2023, while Spain lifts R&D spending by more than 80% in 2021 and Sweden by 10% up to 2024. Across the OECD, investment in R&D as a proportion of GDP has already risen from an average of 2.4% – the UK's target for 2027 – to 2.5% - and is set to increase further as investment elsewhere accelerates.