



SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE VIROLOGÍA

Centro de Biología Molecular (CBM) "Severo Ochoa.

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

C/Nicolas Cabrera 1.

28049. CANTOBLANCO (Madrid)

C.I.F.: G 78440054

Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker,
President of the European Commission.

Madrid, 7 January 2015

Dear Mr. President of the European Commission:

This letter, signed by the President and the former President of the Spanish Society for Virology (SEV), is to make European political and financial authorities aware of the drastic reductions in science funding made by the Spanish Government that have reached 40% in five years. In our view, such reductions compromise Spain's economic competitiveness, and contribute to widen the gap between northern and southern European countries. This gap in economic strength is a concern expressed by you and other candidates during the last European election campaign. The present letter has received the written support from many other scientific societies.

We agree that Spanish deficit should be controlled, and expenses reduced while preserving a solid financial system. Understandably, this is the objective of the guidance and survey that European financial authorities are exerting on our country. However, we are uncertain to whether the guiding European authorities are aware of, or agree with, the huge current science research restrictions in Spain. EU research funding has been suggested by our authorities as an alternative for Spanish teams. However, most of the EU calls are restricted in scope and not accessible to many teams that have to rely just on national funding to pursue their activities.



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Therefore, unless the European authorities consider the Spanish research funding restrictions justified, we would appreciate your taking measures with the relevant institutions to recommend to the Spanish Government an increase in the investments in research. At present, our economy is vulnerable to international swings, and the Spanish society is suffering from a dramatically high unemployment rate, with many young people, including scientists, forced to leave Spain. We think that this state of affairs cannot be regarded as an internal matter of Spain because the overall social and economic European equilibrium is at stake.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by: Albert Bosch (President SEV)

Esteban Domingo
(Former President SEV)

Copy to:

Mrs. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, international Monetary Fund
Mr. Mario Draghi, President, European Central Bank
Mr. Mariano Rajoy, President, Spanish Government



Albert Bosch Navarro

Presidente

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LIST OF SUPPORTING SOCIETIES

Spanish Association for Terrestrial Ecology

Association for the Study of Reproductive Biology

Real Sociedad Española de Química

Asociación Española de Leguminosas

Spanish Society of Pharmacology

Sociedad Española de Fitopatología

Sociedad Española de Astronomía

Sociedad Española de Biometría

Spanish Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Spanish Society of Epidemiology

Sociedad Española de Genética

Spanish Society of Gravitation and Relativity

Sociedad Española de Inmunología

Spanish Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (SEIMC)

Spanish Society of Experimental Psychology

Spanish Society for Evolutionary Biology

Spanish Society for Gene and Cell Therapy

Spanish Proteomics Society

Spanish Society of Diabetes