

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP  
Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union  
Department for Exiting the European Union  
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Dear Mr Raab,

As an organization that has successfully fostered transnational collaboration and mobility for scientists in Europe for over 50 years, we are concerned that the scientific ties between the UK and the rest of Europe will be damaged by the UK's exit from the European Union, and that this would have a long-lasting negative impact on science and its economic and societal benefits.

We welcome the UK Government's desire for continuing a strong UK–EU partnership in science and innovation. However, to protect the scientific ties between the UK and Europe, it is important for your government to achieve certainty on future UK–EU relations in general in order to secure a strong deal for science and innovation.

International mobility is a central aspect of scientists' training and career and should be a crucial part of the agreement. For example, in 2017, 25% of postdoctoral exchange in the EMBO Long-Term Fellowship Programme was between the UK and the rest of Europe. One in six academic staff in the UK are currently from other European countries, and nearly three quarters of active UK researchers have trained or worked abroad. Such movement is essential for the development of skills and exchange of knowledge that help to advance scientific discovery. We therefore urge you to support international mobility by protecting the freedom of movement for all citizens between the UK and the EU.

European countries make up four of the UK's top five collaborative partner countries. While informal collaborations will certainly continue, UK scientists have reportedly been asked to leave EU-funded

projects. With the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of scientific research making international collaborations ever more important, the UK must secure their scientists' continued access to both the funding and the transnational networks offered by the EU Framework Programmes.

We believe that UK scientists should have every opportunity to continue acting as strong collaborators in scientific projects. Continued access to European funding and the ability to move without bureaucratic barriers or to attract talent from abroad are vital to making this a reality. To protect the UK's future participation in European science, we therefore urge you to avoid a UK exit from the EU without a deal.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Maria Leptin  
*EMBO Director*



Prof. Carl-Henrik Heldin  
*EMBO Council Chair*



Sir Paul Nurse  
*EMBO Secretary General*

CC: Mr Michel Barnier, Chief Negotiator Task Force for the Preparation and Conduct of the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 TEU; Dr Christian Ehler, MEP; Mr Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation; Dr Dan Nica, MEP; Hugh Dunlop, MRC, UK Delegate to the EMBC; Mark Palmer, MRC, UK Delegate to the EMBC; Tim Willis, BBSRC, UK Delegate to the EMBC.