Mr Michel Barnier  
Chief Negotiator Task Force for the Preparation and Conduct of the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 TEU  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Rt Hon David Davis, MP  
Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union  
Department for Exiting the European Union  
9 Downing Street  
London, SW1A 2AG  
UK

Dr Christian Ehler, MEP  
15E264 Bâtiment Altiero Spinelli  
European Parliament  
60 Rue Wiertz  
1047 Brussels  
Belgium

Ms Anja Karliczek  
Federal Minister for Education and Research  
Heinemannstraße 2 und 6  
53175 Bonn  
Germany

Mr Carlos Moedas  
Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Dr Dan Nica, MEP  
10G115 Bâtiment Altiero Spinelli  
European Parliament  
60 Rue Wiertz  
1047 Brussels  
Belgium
Dear Mr Michel Barnier, dear Rt Hon David Davis MP, dear Dr Christian Ehler MEP, dear Federal Minister Anja Karliczek, dear Commissioner Moedas, and dear Dr Dan Nica MEP,

We the 153 undersigned Max Planck Directors write to share our view on the importance of securing a strong Brexit deal on science and innovation to support European science. It is important to find a way for the UK to participate in Horizon Europe as an associated country, and for researchers to move as freely as possible between the UK and EU.

The EU needs more scientific collaboration, not less, to address the great challenges of our time, such as climate change, infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance, and aging societies to ensure Europe competes strongly with the rest of the world. To this end we must continue to work as closely as possible with our colleagues in the UK. Collaborating together, and competing for excellence-based European Research Council funding, improves European research.

Together the EU has built the Framework Programmes, which have proved to be an excellent system to foster scientific collaboration. We are pleased that the proposal for Horizon Europe would allow the UK to participate as an associated country. This will enable the deepest collaboration possible for a non-Member State, and it is important that this be maintained through the EU legislative process.

World-leading research is only possible thanks to people and their ideas. Exchanges of hypotheses and their experimental tests occur via students, postdoctoral scholars and investigators working together. It is therefore essential that researchers are able to move as easily as possible between the UK and EU after Brexit.
The UK has set out its desire for a “far-reaching Science and Innovation Pact” including Associated Country status, and supported by research mobility. This should make it possible to reach a pragmatic agreement on science and innovation quickly and thereby provide certainty to the research community. We hope that in your on-going negotiations and in the Horizon Europe legislation you will find a way to achieve this outcome. It is in the best interest of our research, European science, and therefore ultimately society at large.

Yours sincerely,

Asifa Akhtar
Director
MPI of Immunobiology and Epigenetics
Freiburg

Ali Alavi
Director
MPI for Solid State Research
Stuttgart

Rudolf Amann
Director
MPI for Marine Microbiology
Bremen

Markus Antonietti
Director
MPI of Colloids and Interfaces
Potsdam-Golm

Ian-Thomas Baldwin
Director
MPI for Chemical Ecology
Jena

Wolfgang Baumeister
Director
MPI of Biochemistry
Martinsried

Ulrich Becker
Director
MPI for Social Law and Social Policy
Munich

Ralf Bender
Director
MPI for Extraterrestrial Physics
Garching

Peter Benner
Director
MPI for Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems
Magdeburg

Elisabeth Binder
Director
MPI of Psychiatry
Munich

Immanuel Bloch
Director
MPI of Quantum Optics
Garching

Ralph Bock
Director
MPI of Molecular Plant Physiology
Potsdam-Golm

Thomas Boehm
Director
MPI of Immunobiology and Epigenetics
Freiburg

Tobias Bonhoeffer
Director
MPI of Neurobiology
Martinsried

Mischa Bonn
Director
MPI for Polymer Research
Mainz

Stephan Borrmann
Director
MPI for Chemistry
Mainz
Alexander Borst  
Director  
MPI of Neurobiology  
Martinsried

Nils Brose  
Director  
MPI for Experimental  
Medicine  
Göttingen

Jens Brüning  
Director  
MPI for Metabolism Research  
Cologne

Heinrich H. Bülthoff  
Director  
MPI for Biological Cybernetics  
Tübingen

Paola Caselli  
Director  
MPI for Extraterrestrial  
Physics  
Garching

Andrea Cavalleri  
Director  
MPI for the Structure and  
Dynamics of Matter  
Hamburg

Ignacio Cirac  
Director  
MPI of Quantum Optics  
Garching

Elena Conti  
Director  
MPI of Biochemistry  
Martinsried

George Coupland  
Director  
MPI for Plant Breeding  
Research  
Cologne

Iain D. Couzin  
Director  
MPI for Ornithology  
Radolfzell

Patrick Cramer  
Director  
MPI for Biophysical Chemistry  
Göttingen

Lorraine Daston  
Director  
MPI for the History of Science  
Berlin

Serena DeBeer  
Director  
MPI for Chemical Energy  
Conversion  
Mülheim an der Ruhr

Winfried Denk  
Director  
MPI of Neurobiology  
Martinsried

Christian Döller  
Director  
MPI for Human Cognitive and  
Brain Sciences  
Leipzig

Josef Drexl  
Director  
MPI for Innovation and  
Competition  
Munich

Nicole Dubilier  
Director  
MPI for Marine Microbiology  
Bremen

Gregor Eichele  
Director  
MPI for Biophysical Chemistry  
Göttingen

Tobias Erb  
Director  
MPI for Terrestrial  
Microbiology  
Marburg

Reinhard Fässler  
Director  
MPI of Biochemistry  
Martinsried

Simon E. Fisher  
Director  
MPI for Psycholinguistics  
Nijmegen (NL)

David Fitzpatrick  
Director  
MP Florida Institute for  
Neuroscience  
Jupiter, Florida (USA)
Marie-Claire Foblets  
Director  
MPI for Social Anthropology  
Halle (Saale)

Ute Frevert  
Director  
MPI for Human Development  
Berlin

Angela Friederici  
Director  
MPI of Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences  
Leipzig

Pascal Fries  
Director  
Enternst Strüngmann Institute for Neuroscience  
(in cooperation with Max-Planck-Society)  
Frankfurt am Main

Alois Fürstner  
Director  
MPI für Kohlenforschung  
Mülheim an der Ruhr

Manfred Gahr  
Director  
MPI for Ornithology  
Seewiesen

Reinhard Genzel  
Director  
MPI for Extraterrestrial Physics  
Garching

Jonathan Gershenzon  
Director  
MPI for Chemical Ecology  
Jena

Rudolf Grosschedl  
Director  
MPI of Immunobiology and Epigenetics  
Freiburg

Helmut Grubmüller  
Director  
MPI for Biophysical Chemistry  
Göttingen

Peter Hagoort  
Director  
MPI for Psycholinguistics  
Nijmegen (NL)

Chris Hann  
Director  
MPI for Social Anthropology  
Halle (Saale)

Bill Hansson  
Director  
MPI for Chemical Ecology  
Jena

Franz-Ulrich Hartl  
Director  
MPI of Biochemistry  
Martinsried

Gerald Haug  
Director  
MPI for Chemistry  
Mainz

Per Helander  
Director  
MPI for Plasma Physics  
Garching

David Heckel  
Director  
MPI for Chemical Ecology  
Jena

Moritz Helmstaedter  
Director  
MPI for Brain Research  
Frankfurt am Main

Stephan Herminghaus  
Director  
MPI for Dynamics and Self-Organization  
Göttingen

Ralph Hertwig  
Director  
MPI for Human Development  
Berlin

Reto M. Hilty  
Director  
MPI for Innovation and Competition  
Munich

Anthony Hyman  
Director  
MPI of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics  
Dresden
Reinhard Jahn  
Director  
MPI for Biophysical Chemistry  
Göttingen

Thomas Jenuwein  
Director  
MPI of Immunobiology and Epigenetics  
Freiburg

Frank Jülicher  
Director  
MPI for Physics of Complex Systems  
Dresden

Regine Kahmann  
Director  
MPI for Terrestrial Microbiology  
Marburg

Stefan H. E. Kaufmann  
Director  
MPI for Infection Biology  
Berlin

Bernhard Keimer  
Director  
MPI for Solid State Research  
Stuttgart

Christoph Keitel  
Director  
MPI for Nuclear Physics

Klaus Kern  
Director  
MPI for Solid State Research  
Stuttgart

Jason Kerr  
Director  
Research Center Caesar  
Bonn (associated with the Max-Planck-Society)

Rüdiger Klein  
Director  
MPI of Neurobiology  
Martinsried

Thomas Klinger  
Director  
MPI for Plasma Physics  
Greifswald

Elisabeth Knust  
Director  
MPI of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics  
Dresden

Ferenc Krausz  
Director  
MPI of Quantum Optics  
Garching

Kurt Kremer  
MPI for Polymer Research  
Mainz

Werner Kühlbrandt  
Director  
MPI of Biophysics  
Frankfurt am Main

Katharina Landfester  
Director  
MPI for Polymer Research  
Mainz

Thomas Langer  
Director  
MPI for Biology of Ageing  
Cologne

Gilles Laurent  
Director  
MPI for Brain Research  
Frankfurt am Main

Walter Leitner  
Director  
MPI for Chemical Energy Conversion  
Mülheim an der Ruhr

Ruth E. Ley  
Director  
MPI for Developmental Biology  
Tübingen

Johannes Lelieveld  
Director  
MPI for Chemistry  
Mainz

Ulman Lindenberger  
Director  
MPI for Human Development  
Berlin
Bettina Lotsch
Director
MPI for Solid State Research
Stuttgart

Andrew Mackenzie
Director
MPI for Chemical Physics of Solids
Dresden

Joachim Maier
Director
MPI for Solid State Research
Stuttgart

Matthias Mann
Director
MPI of Biochemistry
Martinsried

Jochen Mannhart
Director
MPI for Solid State Research
Stuttgart

Jochem Marotzke
Director
MPI for Meteorology
Hamburg

Winfried Menninghaus
Director
MPI for Empirical Aesthetics
Frankfurt am Main

Walter Metzner
Director
MPI for Solid State Research
Stuttgart

Antje Meyer
Director
MPI for Psycholinguistics
Nijmegen (NL)

Andrea Musacchio
Director
MPI of Molecular Physiology
Dortmund

Eugene Myers
Director
MPI of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics
Dresden

Mikko Myrskylä
Director
MPI for Demographic Research
Rostock

Kirpal Nandra
Director
MPI for Extraterrestrial Physics
Garching

Klaus-Armin Nave
Director
MPI for Experimental Medicine
Göttingen

Frank Neese
Director
MPI für Kohlenforschung
Mülheim an der Ruhr

Stefan Offermanns
Director
MPI of Heart and Lung Research
Bad Nauheim

Linda Partridge
Director
MPI for Biology of Ageing
Cologne

Erika Pearce
Director
MPI of Immunobiology and Epigenetics
Freiburg

Thomas Sunn Pedersen
MPI for Plasma Physics
Greifswald

Ulrich Pöschl
Director
MPI for Chemistry
Mainz

Paul B. Rainey
Director
MPI for Evolutionary Biology
Plön

Stefan Raunser
Director
MPI of Molecular Physiology
Dortmund
Udo Reichl
Director
MPI for Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems
Magdeburg

Gerhard Rempe
Director
MPI of Quantum Optics
Garching

Hans-Walter Rix
Director
MPI for Astronomy
Heidelberg

Tobias Ritter
Director
MPI für Kohlenforschung
Mülheim an der Ruhr

Jan-Michael Rost
Director
MPI for Physics of Complex Systems
Dresden

Caroline Rowland
Director
MPI for Psycholinguistics
Nijmegen (NL)

Angel Rubio
Director
MPI for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter
Hamburg

Hélène Ruiz Fabri
Director
Max Planck Institute
Luxembourg for Procedural, European and Regulatory Law
Luxembourg (L)

Philip Russel
Director
MPI for the Science of Light
Erlangen

Dagmar Schäfer
Director
MPI for History of Science
Berlin

Hans Schönle
Director
MPI for Molecular Biomedicine
Münster

Bernhard Schölkopf
Director
MPI for Intelligent Systems
Tübingen

Brenda Schulman
Director
MPI of Biochemistry
Martinsried

Paul Schulze-Lefert
Director
MPI for Plant Breeding Research
Cologne

Erin Schuman
Director
MPI for Brain Research
Frankfurt am Main

Ferdi Schüth
Director
MPI für Kohlenforschung
Mülheim an der Ruhr

Petra Schwille
Director
MPI of Biochemistry
Martinsried

Peter Seeberger
Director
MPI of Colloids and Interfaces
Potsdam-Golm

Werner Seeger
Director
MPI for Heart and Lung Research
Bad Nauheim

Tania Singer
Director
MPI for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences
Leipzig

Sami Solanki
Director
MPI for Solar System Research
Göttingen

Ralf J. Sommer
Director
MPI for Developmental Biology
Tübingen
Martin Wolf
Director
Fritz Haber Institute of the Max-Planck-Society
Berlin

Robert Wolf
Director
MPI for Plasma Physics
Greifswald

Emilio Zagheni
Director
MPI for Demographic Research
Rostock

J. Anton Zensus
Director
MPI for Radio Astronomy
Bonn

Marino Zerial
Director
MPI of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics
Dresden

Reinhard Zimmermann
Director
MPI for Comparative and International Private Law
Hamburg