

Position statement

Benefits of UK association to Horizon Europe

July 2019

Access to European Union (EU) research and development framework programmes for universities and businesses enhances our global competitiveness by supporting UK scientists to forge links and collaborations between countries, sectors and subjects.

“I want to look at the strongest possible form of association to Horizon Europe [...it is] not only necessary, but essential.”

Chris Skidmore MP, Parliamentary Links Day June 2019

Horizon Europe should continue to support excellence and international collaboration to benefit Europe's

science and innovation base and its citizens.

2. When it leaves the EU the UK should associate fully to Horizon Europe to preserve and enhance these international collaborations and the many reciprocal benefits they bring to both the UK and the European Union.
- 3.

Discovery research in the UK benefits significantly from EU funding and is a vital component of a

Global Challenges

To support the delivery of the national and global challenges we face, UK scientists must have access to international networks of researchers with relevant knowledge and expertise.

The nature of mission-led research is that it is broad, involves numerous overlapping disciplines and requires cooperation and collaboration. An independent report by Mariana Mazzucato, commissioned by the European Commission as part of its preparation of Horizon Europe, states that “Importantly, such challenges cannot be solved by any single European country no matter how large it may be”.

The chemical sciences community is working to develop innovative technologies to address global societal challenges, from water purification membranes and drought-resistant crops, to new antibiotics, batteries and solar cells. The €5.3bn Innovative Medicines Initiative is the world’s largest public-private partnership in the life sciences, supported by Framework Programme 7 and Horizon 2020. The partnership works towards speeding up the discovery and delivery of new medicines to patients across the world.