

JANEZ POTOČNIK

Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 04 10 2007

KV/cn-A/07/1764

Dear Dr. Fiona Williams,

Thank you for your e-mail of 19 September 2007 and your contribution to the debate on the future of the European Research Area.

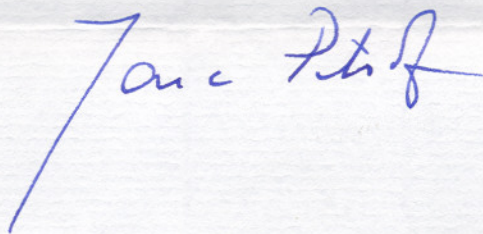
I welcome your input as a key player in the European Research Area. The number of comments received is impressive and it confirms the timely relevance of the debate.

My services are currently analysing all inputs received and a synthesis will be published in due course. Our aim is to use them to support innovative proposals for the future of ERA. I am confident that your comments will find some echoes in our future initiatives and that you will be able to support these.

I have noted your argument that coordination of national and regional funding for economically motivated research is more complex than for basic research and may not fit within the notion of a European Research Area. I can assure you that the Commission has no intention to enforce coordination of research where there is no added value and no obvious benefit for all parties involved.

I fully concur with your statement that the ERA has to be viewed from an international perspective.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Janez Potočnik', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Fiona Williams
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