

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

## Joint Statement

### On the association of the United Kingdom and Switzerland to Horizon Europe

With this Joint Statement, we – the undersigned European university umbrella organisations – want to express our concerns on the lack of progress and clarity regarding the association of the United Kingdom and Switzerland to the Horizon Europe research framework programme. Two years have passed since the start of the programme without any progress and the delay is causing damage to existing research partnerships between EU-, UK-, and Swiss knowledge institutions.

As a result of the continuing uncertainty, a growing number of EU-research consortia are letting go of UK- and Switzerland-based teams for fear that their projects may become unmanageable or rejected in the first place. We are very concerned about these developments and anticipate that they will hinder Europe's preparedness and resilience in addressing global challenges.

In the past years we have dealt with a global pandemic from which the world is only now recovering. Europe has come through this pandemic better than many other parts of the world, due in no small part to the combined research efforts of EU, UK and Swiss knowledge institutions that have enabled us to better understand Covid-19 and develop effective vaccines against it. Likewise, to halt the progress of climate change and to mitigate its most devastating effects, will require us to combine our efforts in stable and well-coordinated research partnerships. The networks, relationships and infrastructures between the EU,

