

EBC External Environmental Report

Week of 17 February

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Unfortunately we have observed that it is not possible to reach an agreement."

"We have observed that we need more time. We know that this European budget is a very difficult topic and very difficult negotiation especially after Brexit and the gap it has left, between €60 and €75 billion."

Charles Michel, President of the European Council, commented on the Special EU Summit of 20-21 February that ended without an agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027.

[Read More](#)



EU budget summit ends without agreement on bloc's long-term financing (*EuroNews*)

A two-day EU summit aimed at agreeing the bloc's long-term financing plan has ended without agreement. It failed to close a gap between the "Frugal Four"—that want to keep cutting spending—and other net beneficiaries of the EU budget who prefer to keep the status quo. It's all been complicated by Brexit. The UK paid more in than it took out and that has left a hole in the budget of up to €75 billion.

The EU Health Coalition calls for a Horizon Europe budget reflective of Europe's ambition for an innovative and competitive research landscape, warning a budget cut would jeopardize EU health research (*EU Health Coalition*)

The fresh financial blueprint put forward by European Council President Charles Michel outlines that the funding to research and innovation will amount to €84.013 billion. This proposal is in contrast with the European Commission's request to allocate €100 billion for Horizon Europe and with the European Parliament's call for an increased funding under Horizon Europe. Ahead of a special European Council Summit (20 February), the EU Health Coalition urges Member States to negotiate and adopt a Multiannual Financial Framework as well as a Horizon Europe budget which echoes Europe's ambition for innovation in research.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Shaping Europe's digital future: Commission presents strategies for data and Artificial Intelligence (*European Commission*)

The Commission has unveiled this week its ideas and actions for a digital transformation that works for all, reflecting the best of Europe: open, fair, diverse, democratic and confident. It presents a European society powered by digital solutions that put people first, opens up new opportunities for businesses, and boosts the development of trustworthy technology to foster an open and democratic society and a vibrant and sustainable economy.

EU Health Policy Platform – Thematic Networks (*EU HPP*)

The three 2020 Thematic Networks are now available. Each of these yearly networks will bring stakeholders together to produce one Joint Statement in their expertise. All Agora Network members are invited to participate!

Commission adds AI research 'lighthouse' to innovation priorities amid budget wrangle (*Science|Business*)

The European Commission's newly unveiled plan to build "a lighthouse centre of research, innovation and expertise" in artificial intelligence (AI) has hit an immediate hurdle: a looming budget crisis. The AI lighthouse is part of broader ambitions to pull in up to €20 billion every year for the next decade from private and public funds for AI research. To stimulate the private investments, the commission wants to pool money from the Digital Europe programme, Horizon Europe and the European Structural and Investment Fund.

Macron: 'We are not fast enough in investing in the future' (*Science|Business*)

Emmanuel Macron has urged EU member states to put more money into the collective Brussels pot so Europe can invest in key technologies of the future. Speaking at the Munich Security Conference on Saturday, the French president said he is "not frustrated but impatient" for the EU to take on bigger projects. "We are becoming a continent that doesn't believe in its future," Macron said. The president urged the other big EU heavyweight country, Germany, to join with France in upping its ambitions for the bloc. "I would like to be faster in agreeing with Germany over [more initiatives]. The key is to be able to take more risks together; if we don't take risks we won't succeed," he said.

Surgeons Successfully Treat Brain Aneurysms Using a Robot (*eHealthNews*)

Using a robot to treat brain aneurysms is feasible and could allow for improved precision when placing stents, coils and other devices, according to late breaking science presented today at the American Stroke Association's International Stroke

Conference 2020. The conference, Feb. 19-21 in Los Angeles, is a world premier meeting for researchers and clinicians dedicated to the science of stroke and brain health.

Association of Depression, Anxiety, and Trauma With Cannabis Use During Pregnancy ([JAMA Network Open](#))

Prenatal cannabis use is increasing, and several qualitative studies indicate that pregnant women self-report using cannabis to manage stress and mood. However, few epidemiological studies have examined whether pregnant women with mental health disorders and trauma are at increased risk of using cannabis during pregnancy. Data from the Kaiser Permanente Northern California (KPNC) large integrated health care system, which provides universal screening for prenatal cannabis use by self-report and urine toxicology testing, were used in this cross-sectional study to examine the association of depression, anxiety, and trauma diagnoses and symptoms with prenatal cannabis use.

The Loss of Social Connectedness as a Major Contributor to Physician Burnout ([JAMA Psychiatry](#))

As physicians, we are concerned that the role of social connectedness in combating burnout among medical professionals is not receiving the emphasis that it deserves. While many interventions to reduce burnout have been proposed, none is more important, in our view, than addressing the fundamental human need to belong. In this Viewpoint, we emphasize that social connectedness is a basic human need that when lost leads to burnout, and we encourage health care institutions to apply lessons from team and organizational literature to increase social connectedness and enhance well-being.

SURVEYS AND CONSULTATIONS

Consultation on the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence - A European Approach - Deadline 31 May 2020 ([European Commission](#))

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a strategic technology that offers many benefits for citizens and the economy. It will change our lives by improving healthcare (e.g. making diagnosis more precise, enabling better prevention of diseases), increasing the efficiency of farming, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, improving the efficiency of production systems through predictive maintenance, increasing the security of Europeans and the protection of workers, and in many other ways that we can only begin to imagine.

Keep the EU and UK collaboration in Science #DEALFORSCIENCE - ongoing ([Wellcome Trust](#))

Researchers need certainty on scientific collaboration between the UK and EU. Science has been a key success of the EU and must remain a priority to keep Europe competitive. International collaboration makes science stronger and we should not let Brexit disrupt this. Researchers need a long-term solution to allow them to continue working together on the big challenges our societies face, transforming peoples' lives for the better. It's essential that politicians quickly find a way to keep this collaboration as easy as possible.

Sign the petition - Horizon Europe - ongoing ([Initiative for Science in Europe](#))

We invite Researchers, Students, Research Organisations, and the Civil Society to sign the petition to their representatives in local governments and to the European Council, asking for a more ambitious budget allocation to the next Research Framework Programme, Horizon Europe. Below, you can read the original letter in English and the letters to the ministries of the some Member States in their official language.

FOR YOUR AGENDA

EBC Meetings:

18 March 2020 - [Brain & Cancer: exploring the mysteries of their connection](#), Brussels

18 - 19 May 2020 - **Board Meeting and General Assembly**, Brussels

24 May 2020 - **Special Session at the EAN Congress: Severe patients in neurological and psychiatric disorders**, Paris

24 May 2020 - **EBRA and RethinkingMS - Scientific Theatre**, Paris

25 May 2020 - **6th Academy Meeting of National Brain Councils**, Paris

14 July 2020 - **EBC Special Interest Event: Global Research Collaboration at FENS Forum 2020**, Glasgow

23 - 24 September 2020 - **Board Meeting and Strategic Workshop**, Brussels

Events of Interest:

3 March 2020 - Webinar: Ultrasound diagnostics for cervical dystonia

16 - 22 March 2020 - Brain Awareness Week

17 March 2020 - Digital Transformation of Health in the EU: What impact for those living with brain, mind and pain disorders? Brussels

17 March 2020 - Webinar: X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy

26 - 28 March 2020 - EANS Annual Meeting & Research Course of Young Neurosurgeons, Zurich

28 - 31 March 2020 - 28th European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid

14 April 2020 - Webinar: Recognizing atypical Parkinsonism

21 April 2020 - Webinar: Hypomyelination

4 - 5 May 2020 - EU Health Summit, Brussels

12 May 2020 - Webinar: Paroxysmal dyskinesias: an update on clinical and genetic aspects

23 - 26 May 2020 - 6th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology, Paris

26 - 28 May 2020 - HIMSS & Health 2.0 European Conference, Helsinki

13 - 18 June 2020 - 8th Mediterranean Neuroscience Society Conference, Dubrovnik

11 - 15 July 2020 - 12th FENS Forum of Neuroscience, Glasgow

12 - 15 September 2020 - 33rd ECNP Congress, Vienna

22 - 24 September 2020 - European Research and Innovation Days 2020, Brussels

18 - 22 October 2020 - EANS2020, Belgrade



Disclaimer: The opinions and thoughts expressed in the articles belong solely to the author(s). These are shared for informational purposes and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Brain Council (EBC).

[Unsubscribe](#)