



To

Dr. Adam Tyson

Head of Research and Industrial Infrastructures

European Commission

DG for Research and Innovation

Orban 09/97

B-1000 Brussels/Belgium

Statement by the ENVRI Community to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme

Dear Dr. Tyson,

with this statement, the Community of Environmental Research Infrastructures (ENVRI Community) would like to engage in a dialogue with you on the upcoming Horizon Europe Framework Programme.

ESFRI substantively contributed to the challenge of strengthening research infrastructures in the European Research Area. The majority of the more than 20 RIs gathered in the ENVRI Community were established in the ESFRI framework. Altogether they cover atmospheric, marine, solid earth, ecosystems and biodiversity research, properly structured and organized to support research urgently needed for achieving the Green Deal.

The community has started to discuss its common expectations and the role the environmental RIs can play, and would like to speak with one common voice based on the mission and governance structure of the ENVRI Community. As we have understood, Horizon Europe will strongly mirror the Political Guidelines of the European Commission with its six priorities for 2019–24. Therefore, as ENVRI community, we would like to emphasize four points in order to open the discussion:

1. Societal impact is a key feature of environmental research

Based on the experiences of Horizon 2020 and its impact on major grand challenges, the upcoming Horizon Europe research may even deeper address major societal concerns. Given the climate emergency and many other urgent environmental challenges, the ENVRI community supports a clearer focus on societal impact in future research funding. As an outcome of the ENVRIplus cluster project, we have already shown the clear alignment of the ENVRI with major grand challenges. We are now ready to deliver significant impact to the European societies, e.g. on climate change mitigation and adaptation, food security, biological diversity and ecosystem services at land and in oceans, security in the face of natural hazards, or air quality.

2. Research based on our resources can lead to guidance and support for policymakers as basis for the European Green Deal

The European Commission strives for Europe being the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and presented the European Green Deal to achieve this. The ENVRI Community fully supports this ambition and is observing the environment, generating data and tools that can guide, enable, and monitor our progress towards this. We hope for fruitful discussions about future research supporting the climate goals as well as the even broader goals to preserve Europe's natural environment. Our portfolio of services and expertise, with research on greenhouse gases and all other components of radiative forcing, on biodiversity and ecosystem integrity at land, in freshwater, coastal systems and in the oceans, as well



as on air and water quality, ranging from the Mediterranean Sea to the Arctic, is providing an excellent base for cutting-edge scientific support of the European Green Deal. The Board of European Environmental Research Infrastructures (BEERI) is available as a body for consultation and science-based input to policy-making in the named fields.

3. Integration between Research Infrastructures within and beyond the environmental domain is optimizing the use of resources

The ENVRI community has been built in a broad approach in order to cover multiple grand challenges. This mission makes cooperation and integration between the ENVRIs essential. Currently, we are integrating our data life cycles towards FAIRness and services within the EOSC in the ENVRI-FAIR cluster project. However, given the success of ENVRIplus, we appreciate future cluster projects having again a broader approach for cooperation, including e.g. common technological developments or common approaches towards societal challenges. The latter could also support the integration of a number of environmental RIs along a domain or a specific societal challenge. We would be grateful for the opportunity to further elaborate themes for upcoming research along this integrative approach.

4. The ENVRI Community is ready to contribute to the research and innovation missions

The ENVRI Community is closely related to four out of the five European research and innovation missions that will be part of Horizon Europe. In line with ESFRI, we see the environmental RIs as essential ERA building blocks to accomplish the objectives being at the heart of the missions and to support the research around them. We are ready to contribute and deliver solutions to the respective grand challenges, namely adaptation to climate change including societal transformation, healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters, climate-neutral and smart cities, and soil health and food. Together, we can provide an infrastructure worth more than one billion euros of capital investment ready to support these missions. We are currently exploring additional models of access that will enable scientists to use RIs as platforms for mission-related research. The more we are involved in conceptualizing Horizon Europe, the better we can prepare the RIs to support the research and innovation that will be required.

Summarizing, we are looking forward to further discussions and hope for a constructive dialogue that enables us to provide optimal support for Horizon Europe.

With best regards on behalf of the ENVRI Community

Dr. Ingrid Puillat

Chair of the Board of European Environmental Research Infrastructures

Dr. habil. Werner L. Kutsch

Deputy Chair of the Board of European Environmental Research Infrastructures

Former coordinator of ENVRIplus