

CARLOS MOEDAS

Member of the European Commission

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Ares(2015) 1868342

Dear Professor Kelly,

Allow me to thank you for your letter of 7 April 2015 and for the note of the Coimbra Group on the monitoring of the Horizon 2020 application and evaluation process.

The feedback received from stakeholders is crucial input into our efforts to continuously improve and simplify the implementation of Horizon 2020. I am pleased to note that your analysis and recommendations coincide to a significant extent, with the analysis made by the Commission of the first calls under Horizon 2020 and the conclusions drawn for the future. The non-prescriptive challenge-based approach to calls, valued by the Coimbra Group, will be continued and the same applies to the focus on promoting cooperation across sectors and disciplines in order to maximise impact. At the same time, oversubscription is carefully monitored and the first steps have already been taken to manage the large demand, which includes improving call descriptions and adapting the call conditions for two-stage evaluations in order to ensure a higher success rate.

I appreciate the detailed suggestions included in your paper, which I have passed on to my services for further examination and follow-up. I would like to thank the Coimbra Group for its constructive engagement and encourage its members to continue to avail of the opportunities of Horizon 2020, thereby contributing to the achievement of our common goal, which is to strengthen the excellence of Europe's science and innovation base.

Yours sincerely,



Carlos MOEDAS

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