



June 14, 2021

Dear Ambassador Lambrinidis,

We are representatives from the European Union Studies Association (EUSA), the premier scholarly and professional association focusing on the study of the European Union and the process of European integration in the United States. Our 500+ members come from North America, Europe, and around the world. We are a truly global organization and through our scholarly research, professional networks, and ongoing programming, we keep the EU at the center of scholarship in the Social Sciences and Law.

Our present concern relates to changes announced at an information session co-organized by the EU Delegations to the US and to Canada in April 2021. In that session, Bruno Castro of the DG EAC of the European Commission informed the webinar participants of changes in the 2021 Erasmus+ call for applications. In this current funding round, only Jean Monnet Chairs, Centers of Excellence, and Modules will be funded; **no funding will be provided for Jean Monnet Networks, Projects, and Support for Associations**. Mr. Castro indicated that this decision was, in part, due to time constraints resulting from the late passage of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). He was unable to confirm if the funding opportunities would be reinstated in future years, noting that no decision had yet been made.

These changes, if made permanent, could negatively affect the ability of our organization and our membership to teach, research, and participate in EU Studies. We have greatly benefited from support provided by the Erasmus+ Program in the past, which has supported our biennial conference—especially by subsidizing participation by graduate students and early career researchers, supported a greater web presence for our organization, and sustained other services to maintain an active and vibrant EU research community, including emerging scholars in the field of EU studies. These activities generate new research projects and transatlantic networking communities, which in turn produce cutting-edge analysis of EU politics and contribute to the overall promotion of EU studies and education in North America. Reduced support would weaken our abilities to establish and sustain research connections to Europe, to provide EU-related learning opportunities for our graduate students, and to engage non-academic constituencies.

Simply put, without the EU's financial support there would not be a sustainable and accessible EUSA. And without EUSA, US and global scholars alike of the EU would not have the opportunities to cross paths and present their work, engage across disciplines, debate great ideas, and produce new scholarship from these vital exchanges.

We would be grateful if you could relate these concerns to the European Commission in Brussels and argue for a reinstatement of Jean Monnet Networks and Projects in 2022. We must encourage decision-makers to recognize the impact that these changes will have on our ability to

engage with one another, and to promote and enhance the visibility of the EU in North America and beyond.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions,

Sincerely,

Sara Wallace Goodman, University of California, Irvine. Chair of EUSA (2021-2023)

Rachel A. Epstein, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. Former member of the Executive Committee (2018-2021)

Elaine Fahey, City, University of London, Executive Committee member (2021-2025)

Adrienne Heritier, European University Institute, Florence. Former EUSA Chair (2009-2011)

Liesbet Hooghe, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute. Former EUSA Chair (2007-2009)

Erik Jones, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Former member of the Executive Committee (2007-2011)

Amie Kreppel, University of Florida. Former EUSA Chair (2011-2013)

Gary Marks, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute. Former EUSA Chair (1997-1999)

Matthias Matthijs, Johns Hopkins University. Former EUSA Chair (2019-2021)

Frédéric Mérand, Université de Montréal. Former member of the Executive Committee (2015-2019) and former president of the European Community Studies Association - Canada (2014-2016)

Abraham Newman, Georgetown University. Former EUSA Chair (2017-2019).

Craig Parsons, University of Oregon. Former member of the Executive Committee (2007-2011)

George Ross, Université de Montréal. Former EUSA Chair (2003-2005)

Martin A. Schain, Professor Emeritus of Politics, New York University. Former EUSA Chair (2001- 2003)

Waltraud Schelkle, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Former member of the Executive Committee (2015-2018)

Frank Schimmelfennig, ETH Zurich. Former member of the Executive Committee (2005-2009)

Susanne K. Schmidt, University of Bremen. Former member of the Executive Committee (2011-2015)

Vivien A. Schmidt, Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration, Boston University. Former EUSA Chair (1999-2001)

Christina J. Schneider, University of California, San Diego. Former member of the Executive Committee (2017-2021)

Milada Anna Vachudova, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Executive Committee member (2019-2023)

Amy Verdun, University of Victoria (Canada). Former member of the Executive Committee (2005-2009)

Alasdair Young, Georgia Institute of Technology. Former EUSA Chair (2015-2017)