



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

The Director-General

Brussels, 12 NOV. 2010

Prof. R. Marimon
European University Institute
Villa La Fonte
Via delle Fontanelle 10
50014 San Domenico di Fiesole
ITALIA

Subject: The selection process for the post of "Principal Advisor in Directorate-General Research, Director Designate of the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) in Brussels" - COM/2009/2390 and COM/2009/10222

**Ref.: 1. your letter of 20 September 2010
2. your letter of 19 October 2010**

Dear Prof. Marimon,

Thank you for your letters in reference.

As you know, the Commission has decided to close the procedure mentioned here above without appointment.

I want to thank you for your personal interest in applying to this challenging position and, more broadly, for your lasting commitment to the development and success of European science in general and the European Research Council in particular. I am certain we share the goal of turning the ERC into a world class frontier research organization, something which is in sight, as the recent Nobel Prize attributed to one of the ERC Starting Grantee, Prof. Novoselov, tends to indicate.

However, much work remains to be done to further consolidate the ERC and establish it in a stable manner as an independent, properly funded and managed entity, to quote your own words. With the preparation of the next Framework programme now entering an active phase, I hope we shall continue to benefit from your support and constructive contribution to this endeavour, which is so important for European research and, beyond this, our future economic and social prosperity.

Yours sincerely,



Robert-Jan SMITS

cc: I. Souka, J. Bell, J. Nociar