



MAX WEBER PROGRAMME FOR POST-DOCTORAL STUDIES

San Domenico di Fiesole, September 20, 2010

Mr. Robert-Jan Smits
 Director-General of
 Directorate-General for Research
 European Commission
 Square de Meeus, 8
 1050 - Brussels

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

Dear Robert-Jan,

I was looking forward to meeting you, and the other members of the Consultative Committee on Appointments (CCA), at the interview for the post of Director Designate of the European Research Council Executive Agency, scheduled for yesterday, September 16, 2010. I was disturbed by receiving notice, just a few hours before my departure, saying that, due to unforeseen circumstances, the interview had been cancelled.

I was disturbed, yet not very surprised, since in the days prior to that I had been contacted by the Chair of the Scientific Council of the ERC. She mentioned that alternative plans were being considered and asked me, accordingly, to withdraw my candidacy, hinting that the interview with the CCA (of 16/09/2010) was unlikely to take place. I find such interference and psychological pressure incomprehensible and unacceptable, and the fact that the interview was subsequently cancelled, I find worrisome, to say the least.

I have not seen, and I do not see, reasons to withdraw. I hope that these attempts to interfere with the selection process will not carry any weight and that the process will be conducted with fairness and transparency, as expected. I wouldn't like to find myself in the position of having to recourse to legal procedures, or of making public some behaviour that could jeopardise the trust and hope that many people, like me, have placed in the process of developing the ERCEA as an autonomous agency.

Sincerely,



Ramon Marimon

Cc: Ms Irene Souka, Director-General for Human Resources and Security, Chair of the CCA
 Mr John Bell, Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
 Mr Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of Vice-President Maros Šefčovič