



San Domenico di Fiesole, November 5, 2010

Dear Members of the Scientific Council of the ERC,

On the 29th October 2010 I received a letter from the European Commission communicating their resolution to close the procedure for the post of Director (Designate) of the European Research Council Executive Agency, without an appointment. Being the only pre-selected candidate who had not withdrawn, I was disappointed yet not surprised, since I knew that this was your desired outcome, an outcome which I do not think you can be proud of.

I am enclosing the letter that I have sent to the European Ombudsman explaining my formal complaint against the European Commission. As I say in the letter "my serious worry is that what happened is not so much bad news for me, but for the ERC". I should add: on two grounds.

First, because the success of the ERC relies on *trust*, and part of that is to excel in how procedures are followed. While the ERC - and in particular, the Scientific Council - has certainly excelled in all its funding calls, the same cannot be said for its implication in this process: one cannot propose a change of rules, or to abort the game, once the game has started; one cannot claim to pursue independence when such a change of strategy is supported by political changes within the EC, and one cannot claim transparency when important decisions can only be explained 'off the record.'

Second, because to maintain the current dual governance, with a Director of the ERCEA internally selected within the EC, "I see it as a very risky path for the future governance of the ERC in these crucial years of public financial restraint and transition to a new Framework Programme," as I said in my (19/10/2010) letter to Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn*. I also added, "I could withdraw my candidacy if I were to see that by doing so I could help the process of consolidation of the ERC as an independent, properly funded and managed world-class research funding institution." But to my request to hear her views on how the EC could provide "guarantees for a better and more financially stable governance structure of the ERC," I have received no answer... just a resolution.

Sincerely,

Ramon Marimon

* The correspondence mentioned here can be found on my web page: www.eui.eu/Personal/rmarimon/