

To:

20 September 2019

Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission

From:

European Chemical Society (EuChemS)  
Rue du Trône 62  
1050, Brussels

**Subject:**

**EuChemS proposal to add “research” and “education” in the title of innovation and youth portfolio**

Dear Dr. von der Leyen,

On behalf of the European Chemical Society (EuChemS), an organisation which represents over 40 national chemical societies and organisations across Europe, and by extension, over 150,000 chemists, we wish to draw your attention to the concern expressed by our community regarding the recent title for the Commissioner who will oversee science, research, innovation, education and youth.

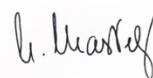
We are grateful that the intrinsic link between research, innovation and education has been acknowledged. However, we strongly believe that the title of ‘innovation and youth’ fails to showcase this and instead sends out a misguided message. It is crucial that the scientific community, as well as the general public and politicians continue to perceive the dedication of the European Union to education and research. Without research there can be no innovation. Moreover, education should not be reduced to “youth” alone.

We would urge that the European Commission revise the title for Commissioner Mariya Gabriel to “Education, Research, Innovation and Youth”, thereby reflecting the diverse yet linked areas that the EU is determined to strengthen, protect and nurture.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Pilar Goya Laza  
President



Dr. Nineta Hrastelj, FRSC  
Secretary General