

Dear members of the government,

As representatives of a broad group of businesses, we are very concerned about the proposed cuts of over 1 billion euros to teaching, research and innovation and the consequences for the future of our economy and society.

Cuts to knowledge and innovation are in fact cuts to the future earning power of the Netherlands. Moreover, scrapping the National Growth Fund means that our country will miss out on large-scale investments in public-private innovations.

The Netherlands is a knowledge economy, and the government's ambition is to be in the top five of competitive countries. In recent years, however, we have noticed that we are falling further and further behind other countries in terms of innovation. In five years, for instance, our country has fallen from second to seventh place in the WIPO innovation rankings.

Teaching and research are the backbone of an innovative and competitive economy, as numerous academic studies have shown. The recently published Draghi report also stresses the importance of large-scale investment in knowledge and innovation to avoid weakening the competitiveness of the European economy vis-à-vis the US and China further.

By investing in teaching, knowledge and innovation, we build the skills of future generations and foster innovation that is crucial for economic growth and addressing the challenges facing society. Moreover, these investments are essential to ensure that we have sufficient resources to pay for our teachers, care workers and other public services in the future.

We therefore call on this government to commit to a productive, competitive, agile, future-proof economy and invest in the power of knowledge and innovation. This would not only be an investment in our youth, but also in the future of our society and economy.

Signed by the following businesses:

Jean Schreurs Executive
Director NXP
Semiconductors
Netherlands



Dirk de Bilde CEO
Siemens Netherlands

SIEMENS

Michel van Agthoven Head of
Johnson & Johnson Campus
Netherlands

Johnson & Johnson

Cecile Cluitmans Global
Operations Manager
Arcadis



Stephen van Rooyen CEO
VodafoneZiggo



Erik Oostwegel Chief
Commercial Officer
RoyalHaskoningDHV



Ingo UytdeHaage Pieter
van der Does co-CEOs
Adyen



David Knibbe CEO
Nationale Nederlanden



Laura Hassink Managing
Director Netherlands
Elsevier



Sander van 't Noordeinde
CEO Randstad



Hellen van der Plas CEO
Signify



Michiel Muller co-founder
Picnic



Harold Goddijn CEO
TomTom



Rob Defares CEO IMC



Jasper van den Driest CEO
Vandebron



Jan Derck van Karnebeek
CEO Royal
FrieslandCampina



Willem van der Leegte
President VDL Group



Rob Postma Managing
Director Airbus Netherlands

AIRBUS

Hans Meeuwis CEO
Royal Cosun



André van Troost CEO
Lely



Ben Tax Board Member Rijk
Zwaan



Dennis Schipper CEO
Demcon



Gerben Edelijn CEO
Thales Netherlands

THALES

Ad Louter Managing Director
Urenco Netherlands



Start-ups and scale-ups:

Nanoworx, Antennex, Ata Mute B.V, CarbonsAI, Time-Travelling Milkman, Optics11 Life, LUMABS BV, SORAMA, SMART Photonics, TRABOTYX, Helia Biomonitoring, NC Biomatrix, Modelta, Syntric Medical BV, Artic BV, Haptontech BV

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