

Delegates and Representatives  
First (constitutional) General Assembly  
European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Association

**CONCERNS** Nomination of Karel Luyben for election as first President of EOSC Association

**DATE** 19 November 2020

Dear colleagues

As one of the [first signatories](#) of the [2017 European Open Science Cloud \(EOSC\) Declaration](#) and as one of the four [founding Member of the EOSC Association](#), our association has been and remains a strong supporter and constructive partner in developing and implementing the EOSC.

Karel Luyben (*Rector Magnificus Emeritus* of Delft University of Technology, our former President and current Director in our [Board](#)) is the [Co-Chair of the EOSC Executive Board](#) following our nomination in 2018 supported by the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities ([ALLEA](#)) and the European University Association ([EUA](#)).

In this capacity, Karel has shown strong dedication in co-leading and coordinating the broad EOSC community which has resulted in a range of [concrete and valuable outputs](#) culminating in the signing of the [deed of incorporation](#) of the EOSC Association, of which the constitutional General Assembly takes place on 17 December 2020.

These accomplishments, together with his leadership of TU Delft and our association, prove Karel to be an effective, efficient, trusted and welcoming leader who embraces the strength and creativity inherent in diverse and international communities, and who has the skills, competences and experiences to make international associations flourish.

Karel's background in European research, education and innovation in general, open science in particular and especially his unequalled experience related to the EOSC, combined with the strong leadership and collaboration he established with the broader community over many years, makes him the ideal first President of the EOSC Association.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am therefore honoured to nominate Karel Luyben as our candidate for election as first President of the EOSC Association. He has the full support from our association and my strongest support as the President of CESAER.

While the documents submitted summarise the key information for Karel's candidacy and our nomination, I encourage you to consult [our website](#) for more information where you will find letters of endorsement for Karel's candidacy from the following major European stakeholder organisations, demonstrating broad support for his candidacy amongst European scientific communities and research performing and funding organisations:

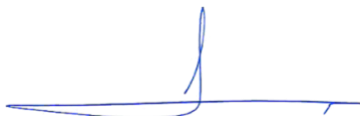
- [Letter of endorsement](#) from [ALLEA](#);
- [Letter of endorsement](#) from [EUA](#);
- [Letter of endorsement](#) from the League of European Research Universities ([LERU](#));
- [Letter of endorsement](#) from [Science Europe](#);
- [Letter of endorsement](#) from [The Guild](#).

As requested in the [elections 2020 information note](#), I hereby confirm that:

- We waive our right to use the offered extraordinary 'grace period' to cancel our membership in the EOSC Association between the first (constitutional) General Assembly and 28 February 2021;
- Our Delegate is Karel Luyben ([K.C.A.M.Luyben@tudelft.nl](mailto:K.C.A.M.Luyben@tudelft.nl));
- Our designated alternate Delegate for Karel (in case he is elected) is Mattias Björnmalm ([mattias.bjornmalm@cesaer.org](mailto:mattias.bjornmalm@cesaer.org)).

On behalf of our Board, we reiterate our strong commitment and efforts to the development and implementation of the EOSC.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line.

Rik Van de Walle  
President of CESAER  
Rector of Ghent University