

The Guild welcomes the appointment of Jean-Pierre Bourguignon as acting President of the European Research Council

As a world-leading mathematician, and through his deep understanding of subjects right across the disciplinary spectrum, Prof. Bourguignon enjoys the deep trust of the scientific community. As ERC President, Prof. Bourguignon has been an outstanding leader of Europe's pre-eminent research council, recognised as Europe's spokesperson on behalf of frontier-led science.

We are grateful to Prof. Bourguignon for stepping into the role of interim president to ensure strong leadership for the ERC until the next President has been chosen. We are also grateful to the ERC's Scientific Council, and especially its three Vice-Presidents, who have done so much (and far beyond the call of duty) to maintain the ERC's scientific independence and authority over the past months. Most importantly, The Guild would like to record its appreciation to Commissioner Mariya Gabriel for supporting the ERC, and for listening closely to the academic community in ensuring the ERC has strong leadership.

Vincent Blondel, Chair of The Guild, said: 'Along with Europe's scientific community, The Guild pays particular attention to the European Research Council, which has done so much to strengthen the research capacity of Europe's universities. We are very grateful to Commissioner Gabriel and Director-General Jean-Eric Paquet for ensuring that the ERC is led by an effective, committed and focused leader.'

Jan Palmowski, Secretary-General of The Guild, said: 'This is excellent news for the ERC, and it is fantastic news for Europe's science community. The Commission could not have made a better appointment for the ERC's interim president. This will give the ERC the leadership it needs until the next President is appointed.'

24 July 2020