

To:

First Mayor Olaf Scholz
President of the Hamburgische Bürgerschaft Carola Veit
State Minister of Science and Research Dr. Dorothee Stapelfeldt
Representatives of the Hamburgische Bürgerschaft

Dear First Mayor
Dear President of the Hamburgische Bürgerschaft
Dear State Minister of Science and Research
Dear representatives of the Hamburgische Bürgerschaft

Last year we decided that Aarhus Universitet and Syddansk Universitet in Denmark should collaborate closely and strategically with Universität Hamburg. This decision was taken because of the fact that Universität Hamburg is an attractive partner for collaboration due to the excellent research and the wide range of educational programmes at all levels.

Previous to this decision, there has been collaboration across the border, and we now decided to make the collaboration more institutional and strategic.

It is therefore with surprise we now learn that the Bürgerschaft is discussing a considerable reduction of the budget of the university. We fear that such a decision will create difficulties for Universität Hamburg and therefore it will also influence our collaboration, which has had a successful launch with a number of workshops in all fields of the universities.

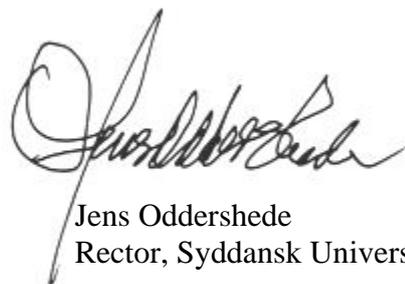
But the decision will also affect Hansestadt Hamburg seriously: In the present EU recommendation (European Research Area Board – ERAB) it is stated, that by 2030 the spendings on higher Education should be 3.3 % of GDP, which is up to three times as much as in 2005, and that the overall R&D funding should rise to 5% of GDP, of which industrial R&D accounts for 2/3. This means that both public and private investments have to rise. The regions and countries that follow the recommendations will have a comparative advantage in the competition in the years ahead.

Therefore, we hope that the Bürgerschaft will reconsider the case and decide not to implement the reductions.

Best regards



Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen
Rector, Aarhus Universitet



Jens Oddershede
Rector, Syddansk Universitet