

CARLOS MOEDAS

Member of the European Commission

Brussels, **11 NOV. 2019**
Ares S (2019) 7262573

Dear Mr Holst,

On behalf of President Juncker, I am writing to thank you for your letter of 26 September where you request Horizon Europe funding for plant-based and cultured meat, eggs, dairy, and seafood. We are fully aware of the growing pressure on the global environment and health caused by our overconsumption of animal protein.

A growing demand for meat along with livestock expansion is responsible for increased emissions and forest and grassland destruction, and with an expected two billion growth in population, animal-protein diets will become increasingly unsustainable. Research and innovation (R&I) can help remedy this through the development of a dietary shift towards alternative proteins. In this respect, your letter clearly outlines the sustainability and climate neutral potential of plant and cell culture-based meat substitutes, as alternatives for traditional animal-based foodstuffs.

A co-creation and consultation process for the Horizon Europe (HE) programme to achieve its mandated objectives is in preparation. The result of the process will be set out in a multiannual Strategic Plan to prepare the content of the work programmes and calls for proposal for the first 4 years of HE. Eventual funding of “alternative proteins” will be dependent upon the nature and content of the different calls across the entire programme and the way in which European society has helped shape its formulation.

Mr Alexander Holst

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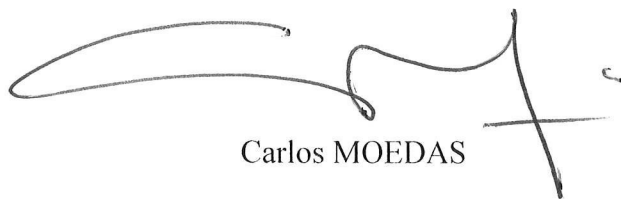
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Europe's future can only be built in a completely inclusive way so we thank you for your contribution to the debate and to the eventual formulation of the new programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke followed by a loop and a vertical line that crosses the horizontal stroke.

Carlos MOEDAS

Copy: President Jean-Claude Juncker
President-elect Ursula von der Leyen
President David Sassoli
Prime Minister Antti Rinne
First Vice-President Frans Timmermans
Commissioner Phil Hogan
Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete
Commissioner Karmenu Vella