

**Date**

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**Subject**

Reply 'Proposal on the Roadmap  
Sustainable Campus'

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**Your reference**  
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Dear members of the University Council,

On April 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 the Executive Board received your letter 'Proposal on the Roadmap Sustainable Campus'. We have received this letter with pleasure and have read its content with great interest. We would like to emphasize that such engagement from the University Council is appreciated and would like to thank you in advance for your communal efforts in developing the proposition.

Between receiving your letter and the formulation of this response, the Executive Board has arranged a meeting with some representatives of the University Council, from the Strategy and Campus Climate working group (Zoom session on April 17<sup>th</sup>). In order to reply to your proposal, we will use this response also to elaborate on the topics discussed in this meeting, to answer at the same time to some of the questions included in your proposal.

**Last meeting working groups Campus Climate and Strategy**

The extra meeting was initiated as response to answer to some of the questions and concerns that were raised within the working groups, concerning the progress of initiatives under the strategic portfolio '*Taking responsibility on sustainable development*', in specific Sustainable Campus. This session included members of the two working groups, RM Rutger Engels, Roelien Ritsema van Eck, Noor Lourens, Marijke Weustink and Boris Pulskens. During this meeting, a presentation by Marijke Weustink provided insights into the current efforts that are taken on the different strategic priorities, the current achievements and the following steps, please see attachment for the presentation.

In addition to this RM Rutger Engels elaborated on the chances for sustainability that the current Corona crisis can offer (mobility policy) and emphasized the important connection between the plans for sustainable campus and its relation to our further efforts to embed sustainability in our education and research, please note that the Sustainability in Education working plan will be send to the UC in June. It includes the development of a Sustainability master.

## Overview of sustainability actions and budgets

As promised in the meeting, we have mapped out all Sustainability activities and investments for you. In recent years many measures and activities have been (under)taken to make the operations of the EUR more sustainable. These relate to energy savings in buildings, but also to measures that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with respect to mobility and catering. For an overview see the annex.

In addition to this overview the following actions are being taken before the end of June:

- o Concept communication strategy for sustainability drafted
- o A concept plan for KPI's and goals for the sustainable campus roadmap drafted
- o Approach (concept action plan) for mobility- among which flying policy

Finally, the VSNU has signed last year on behalf of all universities the Dutch Climate Agreement and has written a roadmap Energy transition for all joint universities. As a result of the EUR's commitment to the Climate Agreement a EUR Roadmap Energy transition will be drafted this year (lead PRO RE&F). This comprises the EUR contribution to the energy and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction goals in the period 2020-2030.

## Dedicated capacity for Sustainability

To elaborate on one of the topics discussed during the meeting and to the second proposal in the letter; at this moment we are taking steps to appoint an interim Sustainability programme manager, who will be the appointed person to streamline all current sustainability efforts and initiatives within the EUR departments. This person will be appointed on a temporary basis on a short notice, while other measurements are taking and being set-up to recruit a Sustainability programme manager for the long term, please see attachment for the draft of the vacancy. The programme manager will work collectively various departments within EUR education, research and operations and also EUR Sustainability Hub and will be held accountable for connecting various sustainability efforts and outline activities were necessary.

## From roadmap to action plan

In response to your third proposal, we fully endorse the proposal to draw up a short-term plan and to create priorities and measures, that will help the EUR to reach its sustainability ambitions. Therefore, the interim programme manager will be taking up this proposal as a priority. The programme manager will be given the first assignment to translate the existing plans into concrete (prioritised!) actions and will be asked to do so in close collaboration with members from the University Council and other stakeholders. In this plan the 7 lines of the roadmap will be taken into account, as well as a proper communication plan/-strategy.

Your suggestions will be included in the assignment for the (interim) programme manager and we will give him/her the task to get in contact with you as soon as he/she starts. Furthermore, the programme manager will also be asked to develop medium and long-term plans in close collaboration with the University Council.

### Investments in capacity Sustainability: *Sustainability Office*

We have taken your first proposal, the creation of a sustainability office, into careful consideration and have decided to accommodate to your concerns in another alternative. Although we endorse the need for dedicated sustainability expertise within our organisation, we choose not to create a sustainability office at this moment in time, as we do not necessarily see the added value of a separate sustainability office within EUR. As we recognize the need to connect different sustainability initiatives within the organisation, it is our preference to align and connect people and investments within the organisation. By doing so, we aim to embed sustainability within existing operations and ensure the importance of sustainability within our EUR DNA. The efforts in connecting the initiatives will be undertaken by the programme manager, who will work closely with the people within various departments of the organisation.

In addition to this, current efforts within the strategic initiatives Sustainability in Education, Impact@theCore, ErasmusX and Erasmus Design Initiative are being explored and aligned. As was already stated in the last meeting (17<sup>th</sup> April) we believe it is important to make current activities and investments (capacity) visible and seek for opportunities to converge them to reach the ultimate result. It is expected that alignment between these impact initiatives will result in efficient investments in sustainability to push even further our impact and sustainability agendas.

To conclude, we would like to emphasize, that we do recognize 'Sustainable Development' as one of the important portfolios within Strategy 2024 and for the future of our organisation. Therefore we do not only take above mentioned measures, but the efforts will also be monitored integrally within the Strategy 2024 governance structure.

Again, we would like to thank the University Council for its communal efforts in drafting up the proposal. We hope this response has provided you with recent insights in the steps that are currently undertaken in order to realise our sustainability ambitions and are looking forward to continue our constructive debate.

Kind regards,



Roelien Ritsema van Eck