



**European Research Council**  
Executive Agency

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Professor Nicola Pratt  
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**Subject: Reply to the letter from BRISMES of 20/03/2026  
with your ref. Ares(2026)3180778**

Dear Prof. Pratt and Dr. Turner,

We acknowledge receipt of your message in which you raise concerns about the respect of freedom of speech, scientific freedom and the integrity of the academic process in relation to the ERC proposal of Dr. Harry Pettit. We endorse those values, which are also enshrined in the ERC practices.

We also confirm that we received complaints levelled against Dr. Pettit concerning public statements attributed to him. The ERCEA and the European Commission are currently assessing these allegations, including the relevant facts and their possible implications for the implementation of the grant.

In line with applicable law and ERCEA internal procedures, we will only be able to communicate the outcome of that assessment to the person concerned.

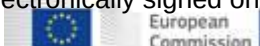
Electronically signed

Laurence MOREAU  
ERCEA Director

c.c.: Maria Leptin, (RTD.DDG1.98); Philippe Cupers (ERCEA.B); Torsten Erik PERSSON (STOCKHOLMS UNIVERSITET)



Electronically signed on 25/03/2026 17:56 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121



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