**Rectors meeting 10 May with Commissioner Gabriel on higher education package**

**Roundtable with rectors of European Universities on the higher education package**

As a follow-up to our save-the-date and invitation from February, we confirm the **online** **Roundtable with rectors of European Universities on the** [**higher education package**](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_365), in the presence of **Commissioner Gabriel**, on **10 May** **2022 from 09.30 to 11.00 am**.

As per usual practice, one rector per European University is invited to join.  You may find enclosed the agenda and connection details, as well as some **background information**, including **guiding questions** for the discussion.

A **rector per European University** will represent the alliance as a whole. 20 out of the 41 rectors/presidents will **intervene and take the floor** for a maximum 3 minutes intervention. You will receive from the EC the proposed distribution of the speaking slots, taking into account geographical balance and gender considerations.

To facilitate information sharing, also 2 representatives from the coordinators of the European Universities alliances will join : representatives of FOR-EU1 and FOR-EU 2 networks.

Bio Commissioner Gabriel

Mariya Ivanova Gabrie is a Bulgarian politician and a member of the [GERB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GERB) party serving as [European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Commissioner_for_Innovation%2C_Research%2C_Culture%2C_Education_and_Youth) since 2019. She served as [Member of the European Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_of_the_European_Parliament) (MEP) from 2009 to 2017.

In the [European Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Parliament) she served as Vice-President of the [European People’s Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_People%E2%80%99s_Party) (EPP) group, Vice-President of EPP Women and head of the Bulgarian EPP delegation. She was first appointed to the [European Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Commission) in 2017 as [European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Commissioner_for_Digital_Economy_and_Society) to fill a spot left vacant by the departure of [Kristalina Georgieva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kristalina_Georgieva).

## Responsibilities Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

* Ensuring swift agreement on, and full implementation of, the **future Horizon Europe programme**.
* Ensuring **investment flows for disruptive research and breakthrough innovations**, including through the European Innovation Council.
* Developing the **European Research Area** in cooperation with Member States.
* Ensuring integration between **research** and **economic** priorities.
* Leading the Commission’s work on a **European Education Area** by 2025.
* Promoting excellence and networking among European **universities** and implementing the **European University Initiative**.
* Updating the **Digital Education Action Plan** and raising awareness of **disinformation** and other **online threats**.
* Ensuring full implementation of the **New European Agenda for Culture**, promoting creative industries and promoting the **Creative Europe Programme**.
* Promoting **sport** for inclusion and well-being, expanding the **#BeInclusive EU Sports Awards** and the **European Week of Sport**.
* Strengthening international cooperation in **education, research, innovation and culture**.