



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

IL RETTORE

To the Rectors of CIVIS Universities

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the touching words of the article on CIVIS website regarding my mandate as President of the CIVIS Alliance.

I had the privilege to be among those who believed in our challenging project and participated in its creation since the very beginning. Now our dream is a reality and activities are starting to take place. But that has been possible thanks to the very important role played by all CIVIS Universities and, in particular, by the University of Aix-Marseille, CIVIS Coordinator, whose Presidents, first Prof. Yvon Berland and now Prof. Eric Berton, contributed actively to the success of our European initiative. I am sure that Prof. Astrid Söderbergh Widding, the new incumbent CIVIS President, will continue to lead the project in the most successful way.

CIVIS is a great team, a large community with the same goals. However, our strengths and expertise are challenged now by an invisible enemy, Covid-19, which is attacking all Europe and the rest of the world. I am calling upon the European common sense of responsibility and suggest to look at each other and to adopt the same measures, all together, in order to guarantee the safety and healthiness of our citizens, because only if we act simultaneously and coherently we will have chances to win this battle. And when the health emergency will be over, we will need to be prepared to face another dark period of deep economic crisis in our countries. Culture, science, and all academic communities will play a fundamental role in providing those instruments necessary to face and overcome the crisis. Together with our stakeholders, Universities have the responsibility of supporting our governments in facing a global economic downturn.



I am sure that the precious work we are doing in CIVIS in jointly innovating education and research at our universities will contribute to provide solutions to our countries and to the European Union helping to overcome this extremely difficult period.

Looking forward to meeting you soon at the next Board of Rectors, I send you my best wishes to you and to your families

Eugenio Gaudio  
