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8 July 2009

Dear Prime Minister

### The Czech Academy of Sciences

I am very concerned by the financial threat currently posed to the Czech Academy of Sciences by the recent decision to halving its funding across the next three years. This august body is perceived throughout the world as a leading institution in the scientific and cultural traditions of Europe. If its funding is drastically cut in the manner proposed, it will be impossible for Czech scientists to continue to contribute to science as they have in the past, with great distinction. The loss will be felt across the scientific community, but nowhere more than in the Czech Republic itself, where past investment in the training and equipping of young Czech scientists will be seriously undermined. It will take at least a generation to recover from a hit of this magnitude, and whilst it may seem expedient in the short term to reallocate funds in this way, in the long term the damage to Czech science will have serious long-term consequences. I implore the Czech government to rethink this decision and restore funding to the Academy of Sciences.

Yours faithfully,

Professor Anthony Whitworth,  
Director of Research

[I have copied this letter to the Czech Academy of Sciences.]