



Structure and Non-Linear Dynamics of the Earth - SAND

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To whom it may concern

I was astonished by the article appeared in the recent issue of Nature. I am gravely concerned about the plans to cut the funding of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic by more than a half over the next three years. If realized, such severe cuts may endanger the very existence of one of the pillars of the Czech science and research.

This institution has obtained important results so far, and further achievements can be expected as there are a number of world-class scientists in the Academy.

I share the authorship with Czech colleagues of several papers that have been widely quoted (up to about 40 times in the last 10 years) by the international community.

I have the pleasure to acknowledge here the fundamental contribution of some Czech colleague in the development at ICTP of the research in Solid Earth Geophysics. This has been and is still a major contribution to the strengthening of science in developing countries.

At national level, I firmly believe that the success of the Academy provides motivation for young people to choose careers in science and research.



The severe restriction of the activities of the Academy of Sciences would run against the acknowledged fact that sustained long-term expansion of the economy is impossible without strong science and research.

I am firmly convinced that further development of the Academy of Sciences is in the best interests of the Czech Republic and will have a very positive impact on the advancement of knowledge worldwide.

I, therefore, urge the government to reconsider the planned cuts and keep the funding of the Academy of Sciences at the level that will make this development possible.

Yours sincerely,

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