



"2009 - Año de Homenaje a Raúl Scalabrini Ortiz"

Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva
Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas

Buenos Aires, July 20th. 2009.

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

As President of CONICET, the Argentine National Research Council, I am extremely 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 accomplished, such a severe withdrawal of funding may endanger the very existence of one of the pillars of Czech science and research, as well as a leading institution in the scientific and cultural traditions of Europe.

Important results have been obtained by this institution and further achievements can be expected as there is a number of world-class scientists in the Academy. With some of them we closely collaborate. In addition, 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. This is something we strongly maintain also in Argentina.

For this same reason, we are convinced that further development of the Academy of Sciences is in the best interests of the Czech Republic, and therefore funding - if not able to be increased - should at least maintain the present level in order to insure maximum development possible in terms of science and research for the welfare of your nation.

I sincerely hope that research will be considered among the highest priorities since it is capable of insuring wellbeing throughout the globe,

Yours faithfully,

Dra. MARTA G. ROVIRA
PRESIDENTA
CONICET

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Cc: Czech Academy of Sciences