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**Gary Hampson**

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Ing. Jan Fischer, CSc.  
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic  
Office of the Government of the Czech Republic  
Nábřeží Edvarda Beneše 4  
118 01 Praha 1  
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Dear Prime Minister,

I write on behalf of myself and colleagues in the Department of Earth Science and Engineering at Imperial College London, to express our concern about 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 realised, such severe cuts may endanger the existence of one of the pillars of Czech science and research.

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. I have collaborated with Dr. David Uličný and his colleagues at the Geophysical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences for more than 10 years. Dr. Uličný's group has developed new models of shallow-marine sedimentation with wide applications in both academia and the hydrocarbon industry. The fundamental scientific research of his group underpins applied research and development in the Czech Republic and internationally – cutting this fundamental research will inevitably undermine the long-term success of such applied research. In addition, the careers of several bright young scientists have been fostered by this research group, as in many other cases across the Academy. Mentoring of this type is essential in enabling young Czechs to choose careers in science and research, and to fulfil their potential in those careers.

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. I 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,

