



ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
PRESIDENT

Mr. Richard Escritt
Director
Directorate A – Inter-institutional and legal
matters – Framework programme
Directorate-General for Research
European Commission
Brussels, Belgium

Prague, 21 August 2007
Ref. No.:26057/OE/07

Dear Mr. Escritt,

This letter is in reference to the present verification process of the legal existence and status of potential beneficiaries of EC funding connected with the 7th Framework Programme. I would like to inform you of the public research non-profit character of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and all its institutes (v. v. i., i.e., public research institutions).

According to Czech law, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR), a public non-university scientific institution of the Czech Republic, was established by Act No. 283/1992 Coll. ("on the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic"). The ASCR is an organisational body of the Czech Republic. Its activities are almost entirely financed by the state budget of the Czech Republic. The primary mission of ASCR is to conduct high quality, basic research in a broad spectrum of the natural, technical and social sciences and the humanities. According to the Statutes of the Academy approved by a Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 614 of May 24, 2006, the basic mission of the ASCR as a national research centre is to enrich human knowledge and to serve the welfare of the Czech Republic and its citizens.

For its budgetary process, the ASCR has the status of a central authority of the Czech Republic (with its own budgetary chapter) and as such it establishes on behalf of the Czech Republic its Institutes as public research institutions (the Czech term is "veřejná výzkumná instituce," its acronym, "v. v. i.."). In accordance with Czech law the individual



institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the CR - public research institutions - are public entities, whose principal activity is research, including provision of a research infrastructure. This principal activity is budgeted primarily from public funds in compliance with conditions for granting public support in accordance with European Community law. The activity of a public research institution must comply with special legal regulations which provide for public support.

I would like to ask you kindly to note that the above mentioned applies to all 53 institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Further, I would like to ask for your help in smoothly processing the necessary steps at the Commission level. In particular, some confusion could be caused if all affected institutes were subject to individual decisions on their legal and non-profit status. This is my reason for informing you of this, and I hope that you will inform your colleagues so as to simplify the procedures as much as possible.

Thank you kindly.

Yours sincerely,

Václav Pačes

Cc: Mr. José Manuel Silva Rodriguez
Director-General, Directorate-General for Research
European Commission