

UNIVERSITY
of VIRGINIA



CORCORAN DEPARTMENT of PHILOSOPHY

The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Narodni 3
117 20 Prague 1

July 24 2009

Dear Sirs,

Following is a letter of support for the Czech Academy of Sciences on behalf of the Committee on International Cooperation of the American Philosophical Association. Please use it in whatever way you believe is most effective. Because I do not have the appropriate fax or e-mail address for the Prime Minister's office, please be so kind as to send the letter on to him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Humphreys'.

Paul Humphreys

Chair,

Committee on International Cooperation,
American Philosophical Association.

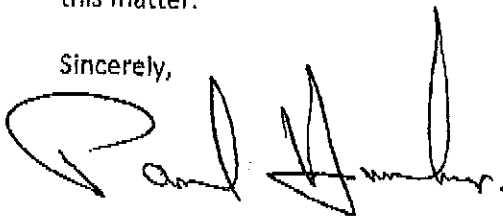
Ing. Jan Fischer, CSc.,
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic,
Office of the Government of the Czech Republic,
Nábřeží Edvarda Beneše 4,
118 01, Prague 1,
Czech Republic.

July 24 2009

Dear Sir,

On behalf of our philosophical colleagues in the Czech Academy of Sciences, we write to express our dismay at the severe cuts in the Academy's budget that have been proposed. Research is the engine that drives applications and halving the research budget over the next three years of the most prominent research group in the Czech Republic will inevitably inflict long-term damage on one of the principal economic engines of Czech society. In modern knowledge based societies, undercutting basic research in favor of applied research and development can offer at best only short-term gains while robbing the society of the infrastructure required to ensure long-term strength and creativity. These cuts will also affect the general intellectual climate which philosophers and all researchers require to thrive. The contributions of the Academy in classical and medieval philosophy are internationally recognized, as are its contributions to logic. It is especially distressing to hear that your country with its rich philosophical history that includes Tomáš Masaryk and notable contributions to phenomenology reaching back to Edmund Husserl should undertake such a drastic retrenchment. The effects on the future of higher education in the Czech Republic will be chronic and far-reaching. We support the recommendations in the June 30 resolution of the ASCR and respectfully urge you to continue discussions with the Academy along the lines suggested therein. We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Paul Humphreys (Chair, Committee on International Cooperation, American Philosophical Association)
on behalf of Stephen C. Angle, Nathaniel Bowditch, Willem deVries, Chang-Seong Hong, Paolo Mancosu,
Minh Nguyen, Jorge Secada, members of the CIC.

Cc: Czech Academy of Sciences