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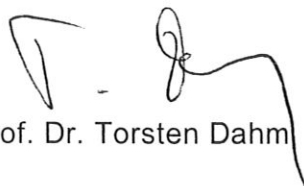
To whom it may concern

Reading the article in Nature (Vol. 460/ 9 July 2009) on the developments and plans of the Czech government to drastically cut down basic the funding of research in Czech Republic, and especially the funding of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, we were gravely concerned and want to express our support for our Czech research colleagues.

During the last decades, we had several cooperational research projects with colleagues from the Academy of Sciences, for instance in the field of earthquake source seismology and earthquake swarms and diffuse degassing in North West Bohemia. Several novel findings and novel methods resulted from this basic research. I can state that the level of science and research performed within and in cooperation with the Academy of Sciences is very high and internationally recognized. The sustained good work of the Academy of Sciences developed a strong human potential for a new generation of young, first class scientists in Czech Republic, and it would be hurtful and inefficient to not develop this in future.

We hope that this letter helps to re-consider the planned cuts and keep the funding of the Academy of Sciences at the level appropriate to ensure high quality basic research in future.

Yours sincerely



Prof. Dr. Torsten Dahm