



Roland Marti, FR 4.4 Slavistik

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An den Ministerpräsidenten  
der Tschechischen Republik  
Ing Jan Fischer, CSc.  
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Saarbrücken, den 29. Juli 2009

Re: The future of institutional research in the framework of the Czech Academy of Science

Your Excellency,

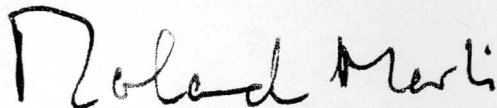
Colleagues from the Academy have informed me of plans to cut down the budget of the Academy of Science especially in the area of institutional and basic research. Upon checking the available information from both sides (i.e. the Academy of Science and the Council for Research, Development and Innovation) I take the liberty of addressing you in this matter personally. I do so as a scholar involved in the humanities (Slavonic philology) who is familiar with the achievements of the Academy especially in the area of linguistics (both synchrony and diachrony) and who, as plenipotentiary of the Saarland university, is responsible for the cooperation with Charles University of Prague.

The Czech Academy of Science is one of the few institutions in the world that have consistently supported basic research in the area of Slavonic languages. In the context of Slavonic philology it has been and still is responsible for high quality research and for publications that are indispensable for all scholars working in the area (to name but one example: the OCS dictionary is the sole reference work in the field and has even been translated into Russian; it is generally referred to as the "Prague dictionary"). Such basic research can only be carried out if there is an institutional infrastructure. Financial cuts affect such infrastructure immediately and they threaten functioning working units. Even when cuts are only temporary they destroy the infrastructure and it is usually very difficult if not impossible to rebuild it and to make it function as they did before. It is therefore in my opinion imperative that the functioning of the institutes of the Academy be guaranteed and that the productive units of the Czech Academy of Science be in a position to continue their efficient and important work.

Research in the area of the humanities is often seen as being superfluous. Considering the fact that Europe and the European Union are constructed on common values rather than on common economic and technical advances it is clear that it is especially the non-tangible values that must be supported. This is especially true in times of economic crisis.

In view of this I urge Your Excellency to reconsider the plans for the future of the Academy and to make sure that research in the humanities within the framework of the Academy be not endangered by decisions taken under the impression of financial difficulties.

Yours most sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roland Marti". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Prof. Dr. Roland Marti

Cc: - Prof. Ing. Jiří Drahoš, DrSc. Dr. h.c., Předseda Akademie věd České republiky  
- PhDr. Helena Ulbrechtová, Ph.D., Slovanský ústav AV ČR