



INSTITUTO DE ASTROFÍSICA DE CANARIAS

Prof. Francisco Sánchez - DIRECTOR

La Laguna, 28 July, 2009

**Your Excellency Jan Fischer
Prime Minister
Malá Strana
Prague
Czech Republic**

Dear Sir

We are gravely concerned about the 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 this is carried out, such severe cuts may endanger the very existence of one of the pillars of the Czech science and research system.

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. We have close collaborations with some of these researchers. In addition, the success of the Academy provides motivation for young people to choose careers in science and research.

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.

We are firmly convinced that further development of the Academy of Sciences is in the best interests of the Czech Republic. We 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

