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Member of the European Commission

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Professor Vladimír Mareček, Vice President  
Professor Jaroslav Pánek, Vice President  
Professor Miroslav Tůma, Vice President  
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic  
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Dear Professors,

Thank you very much for your letter of 23 July 2009 in which you inform me about the difficult situation that the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic is facing for 2010. Indeed, the economic crisis is heavily hitting Europe and its Member States. At the same time, the response to the crisis, while being discussed and partly coordinated at European level, is mainly at the level of the different national governments.

I strongly believe that investing in research is essential to ensuring that we come out of the crisis more strongly. In this context, the relevance and the responsibility of research institutions such as the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic is - and should be - clear. A balanced and consistent effort of all research stakeholders in the European Research Area is needed. This is the condition for facing the challenges of today and tomorrow and for answering the demands of our citizens.

I am aware of the reforms which started more than a year ago in the Czech Republic, and hope that the envisaged measures will strengthen its science base.

Unfortunately, the mandate of the Commission is coming to an end and I am not able to give you a positive answer to your invitation to visit the Academy within the next months. Nevertheless, I would like to express my high appreciation for the support which your organisation is giving to the Community research activities.

Yours sincerely,

