



The presidents of the V4 Academies met on the 23rd - 24th September 2010 in Třešť, Czech Republic. They discussed the contributions of national research performing organizations to strengthening the European Research Area with the presidents of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Bulgarian Academies of Sciences, the representative of the Max-Planck-Society and the representatives of two pan-European science organizations, ALLEA (ALL European Academies) and EARTO (European Association of Research and Technology Organizations).

V4 Academies decided to issue the following

STATEMENT

In 2011 Hungary and Poland will hold the EU presidencies. During this period we anticipate a new impetus to EU policy in science and research. We urge European and national research funders to work towards more synergistic, inclusive, simplified and harmonized funding schemes. The Academies want to actively participate and contribute to the realization of the ambitious vision "Europe 2020" in addition to the development of a more balanced ERA. The Academies propose joint activities in the following fields:

1. Support for young researchers; career development, mobility, reintegration and European networking.

During the Hungarian and Polish EU presidencies the Academies propose:

- an EU presidency conference on new forms of support for young researchers (Budapest, 2011);
- a Marie-Curie conference on the promotion of scientific careers (Warsaw, 2011).

The aim of Academies is:

- to connect better the national support schemes of formation and rewards of the best young researchers in their countries to the instruments of the European Research Area. We are committed to offering competitive working conditions for young researchers and attracting them to science and technology careers. In doing so we will be contributing human resources of the highest quality to the ERA;
- to explore and seek to implement proposals for a Young Researchers' Association at European level, that would draw on support schemes of the National Academies.

2. A strategic and integrated approach to the development of research infrastructures and regional partner facilities.

During the Hungarian and Polish EU Presidencies the Academies propose:

- an EU presidency conference on access to scientific information (Budapest, 2011);
- an event in conjunction with the EU presidency to discuss the links between the ESFRI roadmap, regional partner facilities and the development of intellectual capital (Warsaw, 2011).

The aim of Academies is:

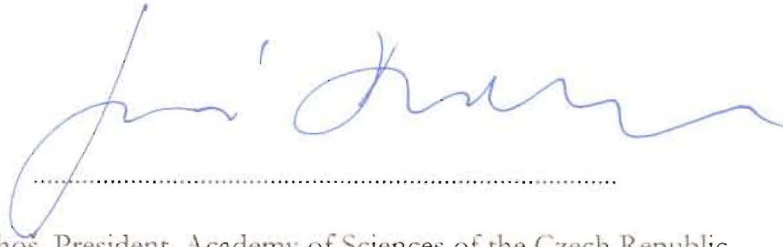
- to highlight the importance of state-of-the-art research infrastructures both at the European and the national level in order to strengthen the cohesive forces of the ERA in terms of regional science policies. We support the notion of regional partner facilities and networked research infrastructures, which would complement the ESFRI large-scale facilities. This process of regional integration needs to be supported by constant upgrading;
- to develop specific proposals for better networking and transnational access to their facilities, integrating thereby their facilities into the Europe-wide approach to medium-sized distributed research infrastructures.

3. Promoting synergies of FP and structural funds for a more balanced development of research environment across Europe.

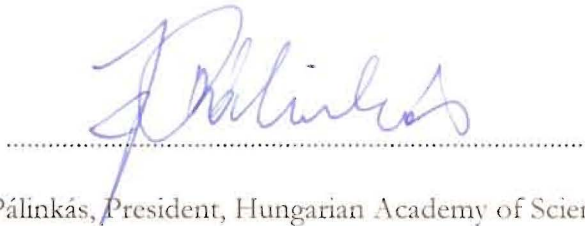
The aim of Academies is to stress the following points:

- one objective of the preparations for the 8th Framework Programme and for the 5th cycle of the EU Cohesion Policy must be expansion of the R&D capacities across all member states to their full potential;
- the success of the ERA largely depends on the level of national R&D funding. Stronger support for existing and emerging excellent research centres must be a priority for the balanced development of all regions in Europe;
- the necessity for multiple structural adjustments as part of the process leading towards an “innovation union”. We expect that government policies will reflect what is indicated by all evidence: a sustainable innovation cycle depends on a strong, continuous financial commitment to supporting basic research and discovery, across all scientific fields. During the Hungarian and Polish EU presidencies the Academies will seek to highlight their contributions to ensuring this balance in all science policy events.

The V4 Academies and their international partners hope to use the joint preparations for the presidencies to build a common agenda and promote an understanding of shared responsibilities between National Governments, European institutions and the R&D organisations.



J. Drahoš, President, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic



J. Pálincás, President, Hungarian Academy of Sciences



E. Majková, Vice-President, Slovak Academy of Sciences



M. Kleiber, President, Polish Academy of Sciences

In attendance:

H. Denk, President, Austrian Academy of Sciences

N. Sabotinov, President, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

J. Engelbrecht, President, ALLEA

R. Klein, Executive Director, ALLEA

B. Neizert, Head of Division of International Relations, Max Planck Society

C. J. Hull, Secretary General, EARTO