All European Academies



Secretariat ALLEA I Jägerstr. 22/23 I 10117 Berlin I Germany

H.E. Vladimir Putin
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President

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10 July 2013

Dear President,

With deep concern we have heard of the news that significant changes for the science system in Russia, especially for the academies, are being planned in the near future. Our distinguished colleagues from the Russian Academy of Sciences have reported from the fundamental changes that the envisaged process of reshaping the academies landscape in Russia would bring about.

The Russian Academy of Sciences has been – and still is to date – a very active and important member of the European federation of Academies, ALLEA (All European Academies). Among other internationally recognized activities in science and research, through its wide-ranging involvement in different ALLEA expert committees, the Russian Academy of Sciences has significantly contributed to numerous ALLEA initiatives that have been widely recognized within the international scientific community as well as among decision makers on the national and European level.

Having followed recent deliberations on the legislative proposals for a deep transformation of the Russian science system in which the Russian Academy represents the most prestigious and internationally renowned institution we would like to make a plea for scientific excellence and autonomy of the Russian academies, truly hoping that these principles will not be impaired by the new regulations. Science and research are dependent on global interaction, on science-based decisions about their programmes and the intellectual freedom of the scientists and scholars. We believe that any reform process of the scientific system should be based on close exchanges with the scientific community in order to elaborate sound and sustainable solutions and improvements.

ALLEA, bringing together a pan-European community of 55 academies, hopes that scientific excellence, self-governance and autonomy as internationally valid principles of conducting science and research, particularly also in the academies, are being guaranteed and financially supported adequately in order for the scientific community to fulfil its tasks and mandates and to contribute to social and economic well–being and development.

Excellency, please allow us to reiterate our concern that the envisaged fundamental changes could negatively affect the Russian Academy's position not only in the national debates on the future role of science and technology, but also in global scientific exchanges. The reputation of the Russian science and research system is threatened to be undermined if its most important research institution runs into the danger of being deprived of functioning on the basis of internationally recognised principles in the conduct of science and research.

Thank you for considering these elementary principles in your further deliberations about the scientific system in your country.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Günter Stock

President of ALLEA

A letter with the identical content has been sent to the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev, to the Chairman of the State Duma Sergey Naryshkin and to the Minister for Education and Science of the Russian Federation Dmitry Livanov.