European science organisations: maintain transparency, open communication and mobility of scholars and scientists

We, as European organisations involved in science (which for us includes the social sciences and humanities), research, education and innovation, benefit from and wish to defend the open exchange of ideas and people, which constitutes the foundation of scientific endeavour.

From our multiple contacts with scientists, researchers and organisations in the USA and around the world we are aware of the anxiety among our colleagues concerning the impact of the ongoing policy reorientation under President Donald Trump and his administration. We are particularly concerned about the following developments:

- The Executive Order discriminating against persons because of their nationality ;
- Indications that government scientists might be affected by new administration policies limiting their communication with the press, policymakers or society at large, and that government scientists would require permission from superiors to publish;
- The unwarranted credibility to views not based on facts and sound scientific processes and evidence in areas such as climate science or the safety of vaccines.

All of these are at odds with the principles of transparency, open communication, mobility of scholars and scientists, which are vital to scientific progress and to the benefit our societies, economies and cultures derive from it. Restrictions on research, scientists and research centres in inconvenient areas have no place in science.

Our colleagues working in the US will suffer, the United States and US citizens will pay a price, as will Europe and Europeans, and countries and people all across the globe. Facing unprecedented challenges the world needs solid science and research resulting from an open scientific process in which scientists, researchers, students and innovators can freely exchange approaches and results, and can move from country to country to study and work where their contributions are most valuable.

We call upon European governments and the European Commission to uphold the principles and values that underpin scientific progress, to work with their counterparts in the US administration to maintain a global science system based on these principles and to take any measure at the national and European levels to preserve and increase the world's scientific and research capacity. These principles and values have been and will remain vital for our societies, economies and cultures to flourish.

February 10, 2017

List of signatories

Academia Europaea
Accademia delle Scienze di Torino
ALLEA (ALL European Academies)
Association of Latvian Young Scientists
Belgian Biophysical Society
British Biophysical Society
Citizens of Academia, Poland
Danish National Committee for Biophysics
Young Academy of Belgium
EPSO, European Plant Science Organisation
Eurodoc
European Association of Social Anthropologists
European Association of Social Psychology
European Biophysical Societies' Association
European Crystallographic Association
European Educational Research Association
European Mathematical Society
European Physical Society
President and Executive European Science Foundation
European Society for Gene and Cell Therapy
European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE)
European Society of Endocrinology
European University Association
EuroScience
Executive Committee of Turkish Biophysical Society
Federation of European Neuroscience Societies
French Biophysical Society
German Biophysical Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Biophysik)
International Consortium of Research Staff Associations (ICoRSA)
Informatics Europe
Italian Association of Psychology
Italian Society of Pure and Applied Biophysics
LERU, League of European Research Universities
Marie Curie Alumni Association
Portuguese Biophysical Society
Pan European Region of the International Association for Dental Research
Polish Women Scientists Network - Fundacji Kobiety Nauki
Real Academia de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales
Real Sociedad Matemática Española
ROARS (Return On Academic ReSearch, Italy)
Science Europe (Association of European Research Funding Agencies and Research Performing Organisations)

Scientists for EU
Sense about Science EU
Societas biochemica, biophysica et microbiologica Fenniae
Spanish Biophysical Society
Spanish Society for Neuroscience (SENC)
Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
Tendencias21.net
The Science Academy, Turkey - Bilim Akademisi
The Royal Society
The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters
The Royal Institution of Great Britain
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The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences