



16-th International School on Quantum Electronics <isqe.2010@gmail.com>

funds cut for Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

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To: primeminister@government.bg, Predsedatel@parliament.bg

To the Prime Minister and the Chair of Parliament of Bulgaria

Gentlemen,

Some of our talented and esteemed colleagues and friends from Bulgaria have informed us of the dreadful financial situation of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and some of the leading Bulgarian Universities, in particular Sofia University. This is a real catastrophe that, if not stopped or attenuated, will destroy the scientific growing of young motivated people, will produce a decline of scientific knowledge in the country and will be a gift to the countries that will host young and smart people from Bulgaria by taking advantage of their scientific preparation.

I had the opportunity, as coordinator of a European Project, to work with colleagues from Sofia Academy. The collaboration was so fruitful that was not stopped at the end of the project, but it is still alive and producing important results. Since the beginning I realized how deep is the scientific knowledge of your young researchers, how strong is the motivation distilled by senior people to young students and the abnegation of all of them to each single experiment. It would be a pity if all this activity, that makes Bulgarian scientists leading experts of international scientific community, will be stopped. Moreover it is common experience that the negative effects produced by the budget cuts are quickly obtained, while the expected solution of the problems, if any, will be effective on a much longer time scale.

European countries are having, even if with different impact on the national economics, serious budget problems. All governments and politicians claim that a way to get out of the crisis is to invest funds in research. In fact all governments cut these funds. Some of them invest in applied research forgetting that there are no applied and fundamental sciences, but science and the applications of science. True innovation may only come from fundamental research and because of that should be saved.

In conclusion, I recommend in the strongest terms that you make sure that the academic institutions in your country be supplied with adequate funding and be held in the esteem they deserve! You will not regret taking appropriate action in this direction.

Sincerely,
Prof. Luigi Moi
Professor of General Physics
University of Siena - Italy
