

Prime Minister
Mr. Boiko Borissov
Chair of Parliament
Mrs. Tsetska Tsacheva

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Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

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Dear Mr. Prime Minister, Dear Mrs. Chair of Parliament,

With this letter, I wish to support the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as an essential part of Bulgarian Science and Bulgarian Culture, and of great importance for the country Bulgaria, and ask you to continue supporting the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

In periods of economic recession, often the tendency is to reduce the budgets for scientific research.

This however always has proven to be the wrong option. In periods of economic recession, scientific research still needs to be supported greatly, or needs to be supported even more, since scientific research leads to progress and solutions to problems. A period of economic recession is especially a period where scientific research is required since answers to questions regarding the economic recession need to be found. Learning the reasons for the economic recession, leads to finding the solutions for resolving this economic recession.

The solutions for the problems arising from the economic recession need to come from the university educated people. For this reason, it is of the greatest importance to support education and scientific research. Supporting the education leads to highly qualified citizens who will lead the country into its future. Supporting the scientific research keeps the most promising citizens into the country, who again will lead the country into its future.

The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences has played a major role in the Bulgarian scientific research. As a central place of research, it discovers and presents innovative ideas. It also gives Bulgaria a place within Europe and the world since good scientific research brings foreign researchers to Bulgaria. Foreign researchers who visit Bulgaria to collaborate with Bulgarian scientists contribute via this scientific research to the development of Bulgaria. In fact, they invest in Bulgaria.

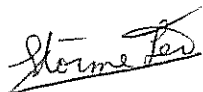
Members of my research group at Ghent University, Belgium, and I have been collaborating for many years with colleagues from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. We have attended international conferences organized by them; bringing expertise to Bulgaria. They have visited us in Belgium to perform joint research. This collaboration has given Bulgaria a central place in our research.

A liquidation of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences will mean a great loss for Bulgaria. It will isolate Bulgaria scientifically since foreign researchers will no longer be able to collaborate with scientists of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In this way, Bulgaria will lose the contact with important scientific developments and also lose the contact with proposed solutions for the economic recession. It also will mean that Bulgaria will lose collaborations within European scientific research programs, meaning that Bulgaria loses scientific investments. So the initial savings turn into loss of income instead of remaining savings.

I urge you to follow the example of the countries who increased the support of the scientific research. This will keep the university people in your country. In this way, they can keep contributing to the development of your country.

Maintaining the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as a central place of research will bring foreign researchers to Bulgaria, thereby leading to foreign researchers investing in Bulgaria. In this way, the investments made in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences will generate foreign scientific investments in Bulgaria; thereby helping Bulgaria to overcome the present economic recession.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Leo Storme
Ghent, December 10, 2010