

## **Заявления западных ученых в поддержку РАН**

Dear colleagues,

I have been told about the possible suppression (disguised as an improvement) of the Russian Academy of Sciences. This is an incredible piece of news. I don't remember any such thing happening to an Academy, even less to one with such a glorious past. What is going to happen to those well-known journals of yours, such as *Doklady* and *Izvestja*? (I had three times the honor of publishing a paper in *Izvestja*: twice in French, and once in English.)

I know that my French colleagues feel as I do; they are going to write to you soon, to express their support.

I very much hope that your Academy will survive this crisis.

Avec toutes mes amities

J-P. Serre  
Foreign member

Dear colleague,

I have heard with some disquiet about the proposals for the future of the Russian Academy of Science. It may well be that there are good reasons for these changes, but if so they are not yet apparent.

I am a mathematician and know well the great tradition of high calibre mathematics since the times of Euler and Lobatchevski. Through all the difficult times of political upheaval, mathematics continued to prosper and the Academy was able to maintain its integrity and independence.

It would be a tragedy for Russia and the rest of the world if this great historical tradition were to end.

I am a Foreign Member of the Russian Academy and I was also President of the Royal Society of London, where I had responsibilities for the whole of science. These included international relations with other academies, and I am glad to say that these links have grown closer over the years. Addressing global issues of a scientific nature, such as global warming, requires scientists of the world to work together. The Russian Academy of Science is a vital part of the world scientific community.

I am copying this message to colleagues, including the current President of the Royal Society Sir Paul Nurse.

Yours sincerely

(Sir) Michael Atiyah OM, FRS, FRSE,  
Fields Medalist and Abel Laureate  
Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge  
Honorary Professor of Edinburgh University

It saddened me to learn of the planned destruction of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Being done with no input with the scientific community, even if it were done with good intentions, it is bound to have catastrophic consequences on the already precarious situation of sciences in Russia.

I cannot guess what the government wants to achieve. If it is to more easily try to direct research toward short term applicable goals, it is even worse.

Sincerely,

Pierre Deligne

To whom it may concern,

We have been informed by our colleagues at the Russian Academy of Sciences that, last Thursday, the Russian Government unexpectedly approved a draft law on liquidation of the Russian Academy of Sciences (founded in 1724) and that the law might be hastily approved this week. Moreover, we have been told that this law has been proposed without any involvement of the two councils created by the Russian Ministry of Education and Science for consultations with the scientific community.

We do not want to enter into the details of this plan, but we are seriously worried about this development. Since its inception, the Russian Academy of Sciences has been one of the foremost research institutes in the world and a crowning glory for Russia. We take the liberty of stressing that changes in the structure and leadership of such an old and productive scientific organization, even when they are deemed to necessary, should be done with extreme care and with the full involvement of the scientific community, not by means of laws passed hastily in any parliament. Cutting-edge science is done by scientists and it is important for the proper working of any scientific institute that scientists be involved in its leadership. This is all the more true for an institution of the quality and impact of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

We sincerely hope that the Russian Government will recognize the importance of the Russian Academy of Sciences for the country and its future, and that it will reconsider its present plans to approve via fast-track a legislation that might have very negative consequences for Russian science.

We hope that hasty law making will not destroy the research environment built by centuries of scholarly work by Russian scientists.

Yours sincerely,

Luca Aceto

President of European Association for Theoretical Computer Science  
on behalf of the association as a whole

To the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia  
To whom it may concern

I have been informed from Russian and Italian colleagues that the prestigious and cultural world leader Russian Academy of Sciences is going to be profoundly mined by an administrative reorganization.

As President of the Italian Geological Society, I invite you to reconsider this heavy decision. The members of the Russian Academy of Sciences have a great tradition in developing the highest standards of cultural and scientific growth. You are certainly right in funding more your best scientists after a careful evaluation, and I entirely support the battle for a better science for a better society. However, according to Leonardo and the last centuries history, no good application can develop without appropriate basic and free research, not directly controlled by the political power. Our Russian colleagues have an outstanding scientific reputation and they were selected through the highest standards of co-optation by the Russian Academy of Sciences.

We in Italy have a great respect of the scientific community in the Russian Federation.

For the benefit of your great Nation, I firmly support the deep concern of the Russian Academy of Sciences members, and I hope you can stop dismissing one of the very few top world academies.

With my best wishes,

Carlo Doglioni

Leonardo Da Vinci: "He who loves practice without theory is like the sailor who boards ship without a rudder and compass and never knows where he may cast."

Prof. Carlo Doglioni

President of the Italian Geological Society - founded in 1881

Recipient of the Spendiarov Prize of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Member of the Academy of Europe

Member of the Accademia dei Lincei

Member of the Accademia delle Scienze - XL

Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra

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I am Prof. Cumrun Vafa, a professor of physics at Harvard Univeristy. I have been following the development of science in my field in Russia for many years and have visited Russia attending conferences over the years.

I write in of support of Russian Academy of Sciences and write against the draft law on liquidation of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In my opinion liquidation of the Russian Academy of Sciences will have severe adverse effect on the freedom of academia in Russia.

Sincerely,

Cumrun Vafa

Professor of Physics

Harvard University

Dear Minister,

We hear from our distinguished colleagues that a deep and serious transformation of the Russian Academy of Sciences is being planned.

The Russian Academy of Sciences has represented for many of us excellence in scientific research, and we were, in the last 40 years, deeply admired and appreciative of the work of our Russian colleagues.

We want to firmly stress the fact that, when touching such an old and distinguished institution, one should do it with extreme care and full involvement of the scientific community.

In fact, the main point of being of Academies is that scientific excellence should be judged by scholars who have dedicated their lives to the ideals of science and culture. And not by politicians, or, even worse, bureaucrats.

Even if such a comparison may look awkward to you, keep in mind that the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the Italian national Academy (more than 400 years old) was only 'reformed' during the Mussolini times, when it was replaced by the Accademia d'Italia.

After the war, Italians and antifascists wanted to go back to the tradition of the old Accademia dei Lincei, which is the most ancient Academy in the world, and had among its most brilliant publications, the publications by Galileo Galilei which led to the 'new science'.

We do therefore hope that hasty and not well planned 'reforms' will not destroy what centuries of scholarly work has built.

Sincerely yours

Fabrizio Catanese  
Chair Professor Mathematik VIII (Algebraic Geometry)  
Universität Bayreuth  
Corresponding member Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei  
Ordinary Member, Akademie der Wissenschaften, Göttingen

Dear Colleagues,

The recent unexpected draft law of the Russian Government that foresees a reform of the Russian Academy of Sciences has been brought to the attention of the Italian National Academy of Sciences, known as Academy of the XL.

Our Academicians all share my personal concern that having the Russian Academy under a special administrative agency that can select and appoint the Academy members, will impact rather seriously on the independence and international reputation of the Academy itself. We feel very strongly that the high scientific standards achieved by the Russian Academy of Sciences can be ensured solely if the academic leaders are elected by the members among the most eminent representatives of the Russian scientific community.

We do hope that your Government will be able to annul the above-mentioned draft law such that Russia can continue to rely on an independent self-governing, highly ranked, National Academy.

Sincerely.

Prof. Emilia Chiancone  
President of the Italian National Academy of Sciences

Honorable Minister, we hear from our distinguished colleagues that it is in act a deep transformation of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

We do not want to enter into the details of this plan but want to firmly stress the fact that, when touching such old and distinguished institutions, one should do it with extreme care and full involvement of the scientific community. Such reforms, when done only by bureaucrats and politicians destroy traditions and do not build anything useful for the future. Needless to say that, even in the most obscure years of the past, the academic institutions of Russia and the Soviet Union have always carried a high and unique scholarly tradition.

We hope that hasty and not well planned "reforms" will not destroy what centuries of scholarly work has built.

Sincerely yours

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