

Science Organizations in Germany

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Wissenschaftsrat

Leibniz-Gemeinschaft · Chausseestraße 111 · 10115 Berlin

Ministry for Innovation and Technology
Minister
Prof. László Palkovics
1011 Budapest, Fő utca 44-50
Hungary

Berlin, 19.02.2019

Dear Minister Palkovics,

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences is one of the most prestigious scientific institutions in Hungary and in Europe. Founded in the early 19th century, it can look back on a long tradition as well as having taken progressive steps in recent years. By establishing independent research institutes, it has modernised its organisational structure and successfully positioned itself as a cooperation partner for other organisations, including a large number of German institutions.

These important successes are at risk when the academy's autonomy does no longer include structural and budgetary sovereignty. Such constraints are not in keeping with the principle of academic freedom and, as a consequence, with the principle of freedom in research and teaching, widely recognized in Europe. As the recent successes of Hungarian Science are based substantially on these principles, it risks taking a distinct step backwards in terms of its competitiveness and ability to collaborate internationally.

Member organizations of the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany are very concerned about this development – partly in view of the many research partnerships with institutions belonging to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. We thus support the Resolution by the Presidium of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences adopted on February 12, 2019.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Matthias Kleiner
President
Leibniz Association



Prof. Jörg Hacker
President
*German National Academy of
Sciences Leopoldina*

CC:

Hungarian Academy of Sciences, President Prof. László Lovász
Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Federal Minister Anja Karliczek
Federal Foreign Office, Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas