

**STATEMENT OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP ACADEMIES FORUM**  
**- JABLONNA, May 25-26, 2009 -**

We, the Presidents and other high-level representatives of the Academies of Sciences of the Visegrad (V4) countries, namely the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Slovak Academy of Sciences, at our meeting in Jablonna on 25 – 26 May, 2009, discussed the latest issues of European research cooperation.

We recognise and acknowledge the excellent achievements of the Czech Presidency which in many fields has given a new impetus to EU policies. We are looking forward to the ensuing period of January 2010 - June 2011, when Spain, Belgium, and Hungary will hold the EU presidency.

We are convinced that this occasion will offer a good opportunity for the Academies of Sciences of the respective countries to call attention to the needs of the research community and to the importance of research and development for the position of the EU in global competition. We, the Academies of Sciences, are in a special position due to the fact that we are not constrained by Government policies and can thus act straightforwardly in the interest of society.

Within the framework of Vision 2020, without neglecting its other objectives, we are determined to foster a new generation of scientists and effectively support those young researchers who have already attained outstanding and internationally acknowledged achievements in their fields of research. It is crucial to our countries' future development and competitiveness to inspire more students to choose a career in research.

Research infrastructures must be regarded as powerful and cohesive instruments and should provide an inspiring environment for the free exchange of knowledge, while their excessive concentration would induce an intra-European brain-drain. We therefore strongly support a more even distribution in the building of research capacity in Europe in general and of large research infrastructures and networks of small and medium-sized infrastructures in particular.

We agree with and support research assessment of scientific institutions in the V4 countries, but would like to emphasise that evaluation and research assessment is a highly professional activity and has to be carried out with great attention and care. The distribution of funds among different disciplines should be the subject of discussion taking into account the assessment results together with other important aspects, such as the significance of the research field for the country and/or region, the cost of the research area, as well as security, health, and national interests.

We believe that our Academies should expand efforts to maintain and further develop the highest standards of ethics in science by organizing joint events addressing relevant current dilemmas and by contributing to the introduction of codes of conduct to assure research integrity and to adequately respond to violation of its rules.

We welcome the main objectives of the interested scientific partner organisations of the trio of Spain, Belgium, and Hungary to work together to realise the Lisbon initiatives in the European Union. We appreciate that research, development, and innovation will remain in the focus of the trio's activity and support the initiative that structural funds should be used to a larger extent for

this purpose. This can be further enhanced following the trio's presidencies, particularly as Poland will assume the role of EU Presidency from Hungary.

We therefore endorse the coordinated national research activities in Europe and in a wider international context. We strongly believe that the future of the European Research Area, as foreseen in Vision 2020, is of common concern to all our countries.