



Prague, October 14, 2014

Your Excellencies

President of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Pavol Paška,  
Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Robert Fico,  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Peter Kažimír,  
Minister of Education of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Peter Pellegrini,

During the Visegrad Group Academies Forum 2014 in Prague, 13-14 October 2014, we have been informed that an important reduction of the budget of the Slovak Academy of Sciences is planned for the fiscal year 2015. This cut is about 17% of the budget for the fiscal year 2014 and relates mainly to institutional funding and salaries.

The Slovak Academy of Sciences is known as a well performing institution dealing with fundamental and applied research. Its international reputation is highly appreciated among the Academies of the Visegrad Group. We are afraid that these budget cuts will intensely affect the functioning of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Scientific research communities are easily destroyed, but it takes a long time and substantial effort to rebuild them.

We urge the Government of Slovak Republic to reconsider the planned reduction in funding and maintain a level of funding, which will ensure the scientific position that the Slovak Academy deserves, in Europe and globally. We hope that the Slovak Government, the Slovak Parliament and the Academy itself will be able to find a way to protect the unhindered continuation of the beneficial research work done by this institution.

Sincerely

Prof. Jiří Drahoš, President of Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

Prof. László Lovász, President of Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Prof. Andrzej Górski, Vice-president of Polish Academy of Sciences