

Declaration of the Forum of the Visegrad Group of Academies of Sciences¹

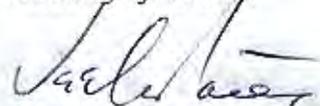
Prague, April 24 - 25, 2006

The presidents and other representatives of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, the representatives Visegrad group of Academies of Sciences (VA):

- In view of the cuts in the European financial perspective for 2007–2013 that will cause severe constraints on Framework programs for R&D and the programs for Innovation, we realize a gain in the importance of the synergy between all (national and Community) financial resources. In implementing the Lisbon Strategy, the new member states have not yet developed their full scientific potential, and thus structural funds should be preferentially used to support R&D infrastructure independently of regions and also sufficient funds should be made available for co-financing all the activities foreseen in 7th Framework program² and CIP³ for the period of 2007–2013.
- As presidents, we note the significance of the Commission's communication on the European Institute for Technology (EIT) and recognize that EIT can be an important step to enhance synergies between education, excellent research and innovation in Europe. However, the EIT can fulfill its role only if it will be provided with adequate and intense financial support at the European level. The EIT shall, in the opinion of the VA, be an effectively working network rather than individual institutions and within this frame national initiatives are very welcome. All national representatives of the VA in the European Council should force the Commission to further elaborate the concrete and more detailed EIT model and financing schemes. In this way, the financing of the EIT should not affect the budget of the 7th Framework program.
- We believe that it is inappropriate the ERC to be mentioned in the context of EIT⁴. Under the FP7 the ERC should act as a funding agency and can hardly have a guiding role on or in EIT activities. Furthermore, the ERC is devoted to "frontier" (basic) research, while the research part of the EIT is shifted towards applied outcomes. In addition, the Scientific Council of the ERC should be seen more as a "steering body" of the ERC than as an advisory board of the Commission.



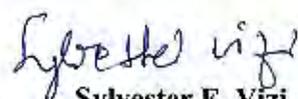
Andrzej B. Legocki
*President of the Polish
Academy of Sciences*



Václav Pačes
*President of the Academy
of Sciences of the Czech Republic*



Štefan Luby
*President of the Slovak
Academy of Sciences*



Sylvester E. Vizi
*President of the Hungarian
Academy of Sciences*

¹ Informal meetings of the presidents and other representatives of Visegrad Academies are held at least once the year since 1996

² COM(2005)119 Seventh framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007 to 2013)

³ COM(2005)121 Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007-2013)

⁴ Brussels European Council - 23/24 March 2006 – Presidency conclusion