

PRESS RELEASE

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Czech Academy of Sciences
Národní 1009/3, 110 00 Prague 1
Czech Republic
www.avcr.cz/en

**STATEMENT OF THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ON THE SITUATION
IN THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

The Czech Academy of Sciences expresses its deep concern and disagreement with the attempts to restrict the research freedom of some employees of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN).

We do not consider some of the recent statements made by representatives of the Government of the Republic of Poland (e.g. in connection with Prof. B. Engelking's research), which, in response to the expert based opinions of our colleagues, propose to limit the funding of their institutes, to be part of a substantive, professional polemics, but an attempt to limit the freedom and independence of scientific research.

We consider the reduction in funding for research organisations on the ground of the public presentation of the results of their employees to be an attempt to undermine the autonomy of universities and research institutes and, as a result, the excellence and the absolutely crucial societal role of (Polish) science.

Any scientific research, carried out in accordance with ethical principles and social responsibility, must be supported by the freedom to communicate its results, regardless of the field.

Contact for Media: **Markéta Růžičková**
Division of External Relations
Czech Academy of Sciences
press@avcr.cz
+420 777 970 812