

To the President of the Russian Federation
To the Government of the Russian Federation
To the Parliament of the Russian Federation (Duma)

Grenoble 25 August 2013

I hereby express my deep concern about the planned reorganization of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS).

I have a long experience of collaboration with RAS institutes, especially with the Kotel'nikov IRE of RAS which took the form of an International Associate Laboratory between CNRS and RAS for the last eight years. I would like to emphasize the high level of scientific research in the groups I have been in contact. And this level still holds on in spite of the low financing.

I believe that the intended changes would seriously damage the science and scholarship in Russia. First, I am afraid that a large participation of non-specialists into the academic area will, at least, multiply the bureaucratic obstacles for research (they are already growing every year, as I know from my Russian colleagues).

Very respectfully, I call on the Government and the President of the Russian Federation, and on the Deputies of the Duma, to give more time to discussions concerning the reorganization of the RAS, with full involvement of the scientists affected, and of other stakeholders in research and scholarship in Russia.

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