

**Declaration
of the Central- and Eastern European Network,
of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.**

24th of April 2009, Smolenice Castle, Slovak Republic.

BE FORWARD-LOOKING

1. Greed has caused the current worldwide economic doom-and-gloom situation. At this year's World Economic Forum in Davos (28-30 Jan. 2009) ¹:
"...participants painted a sobering picture of a rapidly darkening economic landscape The world's business and government leaders only have a short time to develop effective solutions to the current economic crisis..."
2. All actions taken by governments to date to address the current crisis have been reactive. They are falling over themselves to develop cures and will consequently always remain one step behind. Preventative and forward-looking measures seem lost in the mist of the same "short-termism" that brought the crisis on in the first place.
3. The Central- and Eastern European Network ² (CEEN) wishes to highlight how the Nordic European countries tackled the financial crises in the 1990s. The Finnish Government handled the crises particularly well. It allocated more funds for research and education, while introducing stringent economic discipline and reducing spending across many other areas. Finland overcame its deep economic recession and is now among the most advanced countries in the world.

Against the background of the above, CEEN wishes to make its position known:

- The solution to the current global crisis is not yet apparent. It will require a new holistic paradigm. More research and better education alone will not solve the underlying economic, environmental and societal challenges at hand.
- The entire national and global forewarning mechanisms have failed us. We are paying the price for being caught off-guard. National Science Academies are ideally placed to objectively review and assess the systemic deficiencies and thereby help create efficient forewarning mechanisms.
- It is time for political intention to be followed by genuine action. It is again time to look forward and move beyond national interests. In the spirit of the EU's founding fathers' vision *in varietate concordia* ³, Europe must consider its ethical and moral responsibilities towards the rest of the World as well as future generations.

CEEN wishes to express its hope that elected- and nominated EU leaders will take note of the above deliberations.

CEEN asked the President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences to transmit the Declaration to the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Parliament, and to the leaders of all political parties in the European Parliament prior to the forthcoming EP election.

UFvH & GF

¹ <http://www.weforum.org/en/index.htm>.

² Platform for dialogue among the Presidents of National Academies of Sciences from the countries in Central/East- and South/East Europe.

³ United in diversity.