

Sofia Declaration of the Central- and Eastern European Network

GROWTH IS THE GOAL

The Central- and Eastern European Network¹ (CEEN) issued the following declaration at its tenth meeting on 4 April 2008 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Scientific expertise on regional scale –notably in areas of health care, food production, environment protection, weather forecast, control of climate change, prevention / control of natural disasters, clean / sustainable energy production, efficient transportation– is a condition sine qua non both for providing advice to Governments and securing innovative ideas for business

Appropriate initiatives could build on efforts of the Inter-Academy Panel whose primary goal is to help member academies in advising citizens and governments on the scientific aspects of critical global issues;

Involvement of the National Academies –in Central- and Eastern Europe (CEE) in general and South Eastern Europe (SEE) in particular– in regional co-operation activities could strengthen the development of research / development / innovation policies in each country of the region;

CEEN considers the transformation of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe into a Regional Co-operation Council in SEE as an opportunity to undertake initiatives for better use of endogenous capacities in education, research and enterprising in order to enhance the knowledge content of products and services;

The Regional Co-operation Council in SEE should encourage the National Academies of Sciences of SEE and CEE to pool their capacities and play the role of scientific advisory body in elaboration of science policies and informed decisions on regional level;

Against the background of the above, CEEN suggests that:

- *the National Academies of Sciences in the SEE region should assist the transformation of the national centres of excellence into nuclei of clusters of economic advanced activities comprising frontier research, and of the knowledge acquired into products and goods of high added value;*
- *the National Academies of Science in the SEE region should assist the networking of national centres of excellence as potential parts of future knowledge and innovation communities in order to enhance their capacities, harness this potential for regional expertise, promote partnerships with business, and breed new talents;*
- *a closer collaboration both at national and regional levels should be established between the network of the National Academies of Sciences in SEE and the Business Advisory Council for SEE.*

The declaration is supported by CEEN members from the: European Academy of Sciences and Arts, Academy of Sciences of Albania, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Estonian Academy of Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Kosova Academy of Sciences and Arts, Latvian Academy of Sciences, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, Polish Academy of Sciences, Romanian Academy, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Srpska, and SEED of WAAS.

¹ A platform for informal dialogue among the Presidents (or their personal representatives) of National Academies of Sciences from the countries in Central- and Southeast Europe.