

Secretariat ALLEA | Jägerstr. 22/23 | 10117 Berlin | Germany

Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Albania

Attn.: Professor Vasil S. Tole
Scientific Secretary
Fan Noli Square 7
Tirana
Albania

President

Prof. Dr. Günter Stock

c/o Berlin-Brandenburg Academy
of Sciences and Humanities

Phone: +49 / (0)30 / 3259873-72
Fax: +49 / (0)30 / 3259873-73
Email: president-allea@bbaw.de

Draft Law on the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Albania

7 March 2018

Dear colleagues,

ALLEA has closely followed the recent and on-going deliberations in Albania concerning a reform of the science system, and particularly regarding the revision of the Law on the Albanian Academy of Sciences.

Upon request of your academy, we have provided examples of academy laws and statutes of a number of sister academies across Europe, which we understand were considered very helpful in preparing a revised draft law for the academy in Albania.

We have received the translated version (in English) of the revised draft law alongside a letter from your academy on the 12th of February 2018. The draft has been thoroughly discussed within the ALLEA Board, and feedback has also been sought from the legal department of a prominent ALLEA member academy.

Our comments to the draft have been shared with your academy in an advisory note on 2 March 2018 which has served as the basis for a meeting with Academician Skender Gjinushi, Chair of the Working Group for the draft law, and Dr. Edmond Cane, Office of Foreign & Public Relations of the Albanian Academy. The meeting took place in Berlin on 6 March 2018. ALLEA's advisory note is re-attached to this letter.

In the meeting, Academician Gjinushi reported on the procedures and progress of the working group in elaborating the draft law, as well as on the composition of the working group as a joint endeavour between the Albanian Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, and the Albanian Academy of Sciences. We were also comprehensively informed about the broader context of the reform of Albania's science system, including the latest relevant political and historical context of the 2008 reform.

It is our impression that the process is being conducted in an accurate, pragmatic and thorough manner. The level of involvement of both academia and political authorities is well-balanced and appears to be a promising way to facilitate broad acceptance of the joint working group proposal, amongst both the scientific community and in the parliamentary assembly of Albania.

In the meeting on 6 March, the provisions of the draft law were discussed in detail, with a particular focus on the relevant articles concerning the autonomy and relations of the academy vis-a-vis state institutions, the role and mission of the academy within the Albanian science system, the election procedures for new members of the academy, the status of emeriti members, as well as the structure of the Young Academy of Albania and its relation with the "senior" academy.

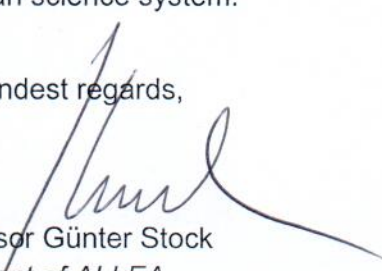
On all subjects of discussion, clarification and further consolidation on the provisions could be achieved. We consider it of special importance that the draft law provides for a sufficient level of flexibility concerning future responsibilities of the academy within the Albanian research system.

It was furthermore agreed that the law will include provisions on the fundamental mission and nature of the academy, regardless of potential future responsibilities, which namely include:

- providing advice on the research system and infrastructure, as well as on scientific questions of high relevance for policy and society;
- promoting and facilitating interdisciplinary dialogue and deliberations on scientific subjects;
- communicating scientific findings to society through innovative formats of public engagement in science;
- giving prestige to the excellent science and research in Albania;
- working towards improved conditions for science and research in the country, especially for early career researchers;
- strengthening the involvement and integration of Albanian research in the international science system.

In closing, we would like to commend the Working Group, and especially its chairman Academician Gjinushi, on this document which we feel includes all essential principles and standards and therefore serves well as a sound and solid basis for positioning the academy in the Albanian science system.

With kindest regards,



Professor Günter Stock
President of ALLEA