The Antiphysical Review

Founded and Edited by M. Apostol **70** (2003)

ISSN 1453-4436

Declaration of Support

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To: The participants in the 7th International Conference on Frontiers in Polymers and Advanced Materials (ICFPAM7), June 2003, Bucharest, Romania
and
Whom it may concern

May 2003

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was a member of the local organizing committee of the 7th International Conference on Frontiers in Polymers and Advanced Materials (ICFPAM7), to be held in 2003 June 10-15 in Bucharest, Romania, until last January when I resigned because the committee became more interested in political image than in organizational matters.

Meanwhile, the situation of the scientific research in Romania deteriorated notably.

In Romania there exist about 2000 scientific researchers, both in basic and applied fields, working in a few national governmental institutes. The most representative for this group is the campus at Magurele-Bucharest. The remainder of up to cca 37 000 employees in scientific research in Romania are scattered among various other governmental and academy institutes, universities, and other budgetary institutions. The former carry on the main scientific research in Romania, some having a tradition of about 50 years, while a significant part of the latter has been fabricated politically after 1990. Both groups are financed by the Romanian government, at least theoretically and in principle, for an average monthly salary of less than 200$. The total spending on research of Romania is 0.2% of its GDP.

Recently, several legal acts have been enforced by the Romanian political rulers, which are directed to destroying the group of scientific researchers in the national institutes. According to these regulations, the national institutes are defined as economic agents, the researchers salaries are only paid by competition, and private enterprises are allowed to have an unrestricted access to budgetary research funds. The results of these improper political acts are dramatic in the scientific research in Romania: the salaries of the researchers are not paid, the infrastructure and utilities are not maintained, the scientific research diminished drastically. The young people in research are forced to go abroad for ever, the older are forced to retire, with a monthly retirement payment of less than 150$, after cca 30-40 years of activity. Unfortunately, the middle-aged researchers have no solution under these working and living conditions in the Romanian scientific research.

At the same time, the politically manufactured part of the so-called research in academy and universities is not subjected to these regulations: these employees are often paid a second, or third salary for research, beside the ones for education, and beside, in many instances, the income in private enterprises, or the income for organizing or administration of research. Direct funds are alotted to such confected researchers, under the disguise of participating in the European research. A huge corruption was thereby generated in the scientific research, academia and universities in Romania. The trade unions of research also draw on the research institutes being defined as economic agents.

In view of this situation, and taking the opportunity of the ICFPAM7, I kindly ask you herewith to sign up (fill in the applicable fields) the following

PUBLIC DECLARATION of SUPPORT

We, the undersigned, having knowledge of the extremely difficult situation in the scientific research in Romania, as caused by various legal acts and practices adopted recently, as described in the above letter of Marian Apostol, join and support hereby the scientific researchers in the national institutes of research in Romania in their demands formulated to the political rulers of Romania:

1 To stop the application of those legal acts and those practices which conduct to the destruction of the scientific research in Romania, and which define the national institutes in Romania as economic agents, force the scientific researchers to get their salaries exclusively by competition, and allow the uncontrolled access of the private enterprises to budgetary research funds. We emphasize that such regulations are thoroughly atypical for the scientific research, and pursuing them further will place Romania beside the general trend and practices in the scientific and technological world;

2 To ensure a budgetary funding of the scientific research in the national institutes in Romania, according to their own plans of research, and the general worldwide practices in this field of activity;

3 To adopt urgently all the necessary actions for removing the corruption, for giving up the arbitrary, the unprofessional practices, the incompetence and the research and science-in-disguise phenomenon in the organization and administration of the scientific research in Romania.

Name:, Title:, Affiliation:, Date:

I thank you very much. Please be assured that I and my fellow researchers will use your declaration in good faith and only in support of our actions as described in Declaration.

Sincerely,

Marian Apostol

(Please feel free to circulate this letter and Declaration of Support as widely as you may consider it appropriate. Please also feel free to change, remove, add anything in the above text, as well as sending a .pdf if you feel so.)

To be sent to: Marian Apostol, apoma@theory.nipne.ro,

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