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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Statement from the XXIII World Congress of Philosophy in Athens (4-10 August 2013)
regarding the Proposed Reform of the Russian Academy of Sciences**

15 August 2013.

Dear Professor Guseynov,

The representatives of the World Congress of Philosophy have been informed about the proposed restructuring of the Russian Academy of Sciences suddenly put forward to the State Duma of the Russian Federation on 28 June 2013, as well as of the serious opposition that this project meets within the scientific community of Russia and of the Russian Academy of the Sciences in particular.

We, the representatives of the member philosophical societies of FISP express our deep concern concerning the reform proposals for the Russian Academy of Sciences proposed by the Russian government. The grounds for concern include in particular the lack of consultation with the academic community and the risk that the proposed changes could threaten the autonomy and independence of the Russian Academy of Sciences and various research institutes. Members of the Russian Academy recognize the need for change, but are concerned that the legislation as proposed is not the right way to achieve it.

We firmly believe that proposals for changing the status of scientific research in any country must be analyzed and discussed in advance in collaboration with the scientific community itself. Considerations of a purely political, social, financial or administrative nature ought not dictate the guidelines for the science

policy of a whole country. This is especially relevant in the case of the Russian Academy of the Sciences, which has such enormous scientific prestige at the international level.

We continue to watch carefully the negotiations over the proposed reform and note that some changes have been introduced in the course of public discussion. We urge that the time remaining until the final decision be used for wide and open consultation with all interested parties within Russia. We support the proposal that the government and the Russian Academy should set up an expert committee of respected representatives of scientific community and elaborate a plan of reform for all basic scientific research in Russia. All this is required in order to give the Russian research community the best chance of promoting research of excellent quality, of safeguarding its reputation and effectiveness, and of developing its role as a valued international partner.

It has been normally expected that significant social changes are planned and designed in collaboration with widely recognized experts in the social sciences and humanities. Unfortunately this was not the case of the proposed reform. We really hope that the Russian Government will rethink its position on this delicate and relevant matter.

This resolution was passed at the General Assembly of the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de Philosophie at its XXIII World Congress in Athens, held on 9th August 2013.

Yours sincerely,



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President, FISP



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