

Dear Mrs

Zuzana Čaputová

President of the Slovak Republic

Office of the President of the Slovak Republic

Štefánikova 2

811 05 Bratislava

In Bratislava, on 24 February 2023

Dear Mrs President of the Slovak Republic,

We address you as the employers and entrepreneurs organized in the Federation of Employers' Associations, the National Union of Employers, the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Klub 500 and the Association of Research and Development Industrial Organizations in connection with the ongoing legislative process of the National Research and Development Strategy in Slovakia until 2030.

The Government Office of the Slovak Republic, represented by the Research and Innovation Authority, continues the legislative process for the said material, despite the fact that it is a strategic legislative material that has a major impact on the economic and social policy of the Slovak Republic and that has been subjected to serious substantive criticism not only from the business enterprise sector.

Considering that the Government of the Slovak Republic was dismissed and was entrusted with the limited exercise of its powers, pursuant to Art. 115 par. 3 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, we consider the continuation of the negotiations on the National Science, Research and Innovation Strategy until 2030 as exceeding of its current powers as the dismissed Government. The said document is a strategic material for the entire field of science, research and innovation, which sets the trend for Slovakia in these areas. Pursuant to Art. 115 par. 3 in conjunction with Art. 119 d) and i) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, the dismissed Government does not have the powers to discuss a draft regulation that has a major impact on the economic and social policy of the Slovak Republic, or as a regulation that has a major impact on Slovakia's domestic policy. We believe that the legislative process of the national strategy should be stopped and resumed only by the Government of the Slovak Republic, which will have all the powers resulting from the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

Dear Mrs President of the Slovak Republic,

The National Research and Development Strategy in the Slovak Republic is also a strategic material that sets the trend in the Slovak Republic in the field of science, research and innovation until 2030. The strategy is, among other things, a milestone of the Recovery and Resilience Plan and one of the preconditions for using European funds until 2027. As employers, we have fundamental substantive reservations to the process of creating the above-stated material, as well as its current final wording and structure. In accordance with the European Commission's methodology, in the preparation of the material, the Government of the Slovak Republic should have ensured a broad participatory process with the professional public, (the so-called

Quadruple Helix Model, which includes four main actors in the innovation system, namely Academia, Industry, Government, and the public/environmental sector). Sadly, we have to conclude that from our point of view the said material has been prepared by a narrow group of authors, without any systematic discussion with employer and professional associations, which unite the majority of business entities. We cannot consider the authors' claim that they have had discussions with specific (undisclosed) company representatives as the Quadruple Helix Model.

The basis for competitiveness and innovative performance of any economy is the cooperation of the public and private sectors. We are disappointed that, as the representatives of the private sector, we did not get the floor in the development of the said material, moreover, we were excluded from the new composition of the Council of the Slovak Government for Science, Technology and Innovation, in which only one representative was left instead of the original five representatives of the private sector.

We also addressed the submitters as part of the interdepartmental consultation procedure with our reservations. Unfortunately, the comments procedures were not carried out in accordance with the legislative rules, and we consider the consultation procedure process to be unfinished. To our surprise, the material has been submitted for negotiation of the Council of the Slovak Government for Science, Technology and Innovation without being discussed at all at the meeting of the Economic and Social Council, which in our view is a violation of the legislative process, because the consultation process has not been properly completed.

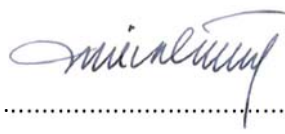
Dear Mrs President,

In the light of the foregoing, we address you and kindly ask you not to allow another legislative process for the National Research and Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic until 2030. We understand your statement that, according to the agreed system, you comment on each document that is to be submitted for negotiations of the Slovak Government. We consider the field of science, research and innovation to be a key and strategic field on which the future of the Slovak Republic depends. Without ensuring cooperation between the public and private sectors, we will not increase the innovation capacity of Slovakia or the European Union.

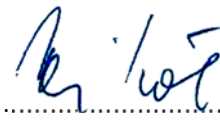
Yours sincerely,



Ing. Tomáš Malatinský
FEA SR President



RNDr. Miroslav Kiraľvarga, MBA
NUE President



doc. Ing. Peter Mihók, CSc.
SCCI Chairman



Doc. Ing. Rosina Štefan PhD. MBA
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