

To: His Excellency Abdullah Gul
President
Office of the President
Cumhurbaşkanlığı
06689 Çankaya, Ankara
Republic of Turkey

To: His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Basbakanlik
06573 Ankara
Republic of Turkey

CC: Prof. Dr. Yücal Kanpolat
President of the Turkish Academy of Sciences
Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA)
Piyade Sokak No:27
06690 - Çankaya
Ankara - TURKEY

Strasbourg, 12 October 2011

Your Excellencies,

It has been brought to our attention that the independence of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) is in serious jeopardy due to recent declarations by the Turkish Government.

Euroscience, representing scientists and scholars from across the research spectrum, journalists and policymakers, views such changes with considerable concern. The linking of responsibilities and roles of Academies, Universities, research institutes, and learned societies with those of Government is not only unwieldy but brings into question the independence of the research itself. Academies, worldwide, are particularly important players in providing both Governments and society at large with independent scientific information and advice produced and peer reviewed by the best scientists drawn nationally, from Europe and from the World.

We believe that maintaining and ensuring the independence of TÜBA from any formal and organisational political influence is the best guarantee for a successful development of Turkish science and technology within both European and world society.

On behalf of the members of Euroscience, we ask that the Government of Turkey to reverse this decision and to guarantee an independent structure, which allows for the fair and free election of both the President and the members of the TÜBA by their scientific community

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Enric Banda', written in a cursive style.

Enric Banda
President of Euroscience