



# INSTITUTE OF CATALYSIS AND SURFACE CHEMISTRY

POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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prof. Małgorzata Witko- Director

Cracow, 13-01-2010

**To the President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

**Acad. N. Sabotinov**

**To the Director of Institute of Catalysis**

**Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

**Prof. S. Rakovsky**

Dear Sirs,

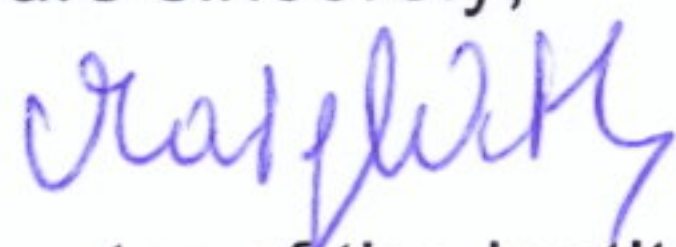
Recently we learned about the plans to restructure the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. While we do not question the need for such a move, we are very worried by the information that an option is considered, in which the Institute of Catalysis, BAS, would be divided between other units of the Academy. We write this letter with intention to support the request of the Institute of Catalysis, BAS, to remain as a separate structural unit of BAS.

The dissolution of the Institute of Catalysis BAS would mean an irreparable damage to Bulgarian and international scientific community. We are in a position to judge it, because since many years both our institutes are involved in a successful cooperation in the frame of the inter-academic joint research in the field of heterogeneous catalysis and new nano-sized catalytic materials. These investigations are important both in view of protection of the environment and energy production (ecologically clean hydrogen fuel). The important aspect of the cooperation is the complementarity of know-how and the experimental facilities, which makes possible an in-depth approach to the scientific problems studied by the joint team, provides conditions for mutual perfecting of skills, offers possibility of training young researchers and represents the base for joint European projects. We are very keen to continue this cooperation.

The importance of catalysis is a consequence of its being a key factor in scientific and industrial progress. The majority of sustainable technological processes are based on catalytic concepts. Of particular importance are catalytic processes aiming at minimization of harmful effects of industrialization. The Institute of Catalysis, BAS, is an internationally recognized institution dealing successfully with these vital aspects of human life. Research in catalysis is of interdisciplinary nature and requires expertise in many fields, such as chemistry, physics, chemical technology – to name the most important. Interdisciplinary studies are the future of science. To gather experts capable of dealing with the above aspects takes years, so losing the potential of the excellent staff of the Institute of Catalysis would damage the position of the Bulgarian science in this area.

In view of the above, we strongly support the request of the Institute of Catalysis, BAS, to remain a separate structural unit of the Academy in order to preserve its present scientific profile.

Yours sincerely,



Director of the Institute of Catalysis and Surface Chemistry  
Polish Academy of Sciences

