

Position Statement of the Presidium of the Polish Academy of Sciences dated 17 September 2019 on the importance of science being downgraded among the priorities of the European Commission

The Presidium of the Polish Academy of Sciences expresses its concern at the disappearance of the words "research" and "science" from the name for the field of responsibility of the new EU Commissioner in charge of such affairs. The new name, "Innovation and Youth", could indicate a shift in the priorities of the Commission, entailing the downgrading of the importance of science, which – if true – would have to have catastrophic consequences for Europe in these times of global scientific revolution. The anticipated broad scope of the new Commissioner's responsibilities – encompassing education, scientific research, innovation, culture, youth and sport – could entail a reduction in the time devoted to issues related to scientific research, which would have to have a very negative impact on the EU's competitiveness in the longer-term future.