

Hungarian Science Strategy Goes International

HAS' President to serve as co-vice-chair of the European Academies Science Advisory Council.

2010.03.09.

"As the Hungarian vice-chair of EASAC my most important task will be to bring HAS' strategy to the forefront of the international science world", **József Pálinkás** said after being elected co-vice-chair of the **European Academies Science Advisory Council** (EASAC). The President considers the fields of energetics, climate research, water-economy, and synthetic biology strategically critical areas. "My intention is to draw Hungary and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences into the operations of every important workgroup within EASAC", said József Pálinkás and he added: this way, the strategic work being done in the Academy can be channeled into international scientific activities. EASAC was established in 2001 to provide a means for the national academies of Europe to work together to inject high quality science into European Union policy-making. Its task is building science into policy at the EU level by providing independent, expert, credible advice about the scientific aspects of public policy issues to those who make or influence policy for the EU. It regularly issues strategic statements and prepares concepts for the European Parliament and Committee, József Pálinkás said explaining EASAC's core responsibilities. The Council is EASAC's governing body consisting of 27 individuals nominated by the national academies. The Council sets EASAC's direction, agrees the initiation of projects, appoints members of project groups, reviews and approves reports for publication. EASAC's activities cover all scientific and technical disciplines, and its experts are drawn from all the countries of the European Union. The Bureau (comprising the Chair and the Vice-Chairs) is responsible for taking operational decisions between the six-monthly meetings of the Council. The organisation keeps close contact with the target policy-making parts of the EU - Parliament, Council, and Commission.



Sir Brian Heap

The next meeting of the Council will be held in Budapest on 17 and 18 June, 2010. The chair of the new Bureau, taking office after the close of the meeting, is biologist **Sir Brian Heap**, President of Trustees at the Academia Europaea, while joining József Pálinkás as vice-chairs are nuclear physicist **Sven Kullander**, vice-president of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and medical research scientist **Jos van der Meer**, vice-president of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. EASAC is an efficient organisation and so the fundamental task of the chair and the three vice-chairs is to maintain the effective operations of EASAC, said HAS' President explaining the ideas of the new Bureau. The organisation plans to play a more intensive role influencing the directions of EU's R&D strategies in the future, and continues to provide decision-makers with concrete advice and recommendations. The new chair, Sir Brian Heap has already met the EU's commissioner for Research and Development and plans to establish an EASAC office in Brussels as this would make keeping a close contact with the EU's administration much easier, József Pálinkás said. HAS' President believes that EASAC is able to have an influence on how funds for R&D are to be spent, and so the organisation could contribute to increasing the competitiveness of Europe. - [Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 2010]