

Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum  
Minister of Research and Innovation  
Mr. Kostas Fotakis  
E-Mail: fotakis@minedu.gov.gr

*Professor Dr.med. Dr. h.c. mult. Harald zur Hausen*

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*Heidelberg, December 16, 2015/lb*

Dear Minister Fotakis,

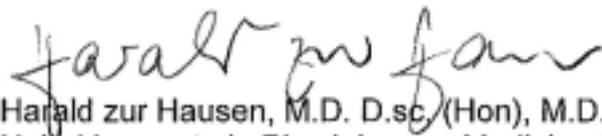
Distinguished Scientists, awarded with the Nobel Prize, have co-signed the petition "Support for Greece", which I have sent to the European Leadership (Martin Schulz, Donald Tusk, Jean-Claude Juncker), on behalf of the Signatories.

The Signatories (15 Nobel Laureates) of this petition sincerely hope that international political leaders in both Europe and USA, will take measures and actions in their power to support Science in Greece and to help the country to recover from the financial crisis which occurs.

We hope that this support letter will help Greece in the decisions taken by European Leadership and give the opportunity for Greece to recover. The excellent human potential of Greece in Science and Technology can be the catalyst for growth and prosperity.

You will find attached the "Support of Greece" petition which was signed by the 15 Nobel Laureates.

Yours faithfully,



Harald zur Hausen, M.D. D.sc (Hon), M.D.  
Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine 2008

Encl.:

Petition "Support for Greece" and list of Signatories  
Copy of article in SCIENCE, 10 July 2015, vol 349

Attention:

*Prime Minister, Mr. Alexis Tsipras  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nikos Kotzias  
Ministers of Education, Research and Religion,  
Mr. Nikos Filis and Mrs. Athanasia Anagnostopoulou  
Minister of Culture, Mr. Aristidis Baltas*

Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum  
Postfach 101949 · D-68009 Heidelberg

*Professor Dr.med. Dr. h.c. mult. Harald zur Hausen*

Mr. Donald Tusk  
President of the European Council  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175  
B-1048 Bruxelles/Brussel  
Belgique

Im Neuenheimer Feld 280  
D-69120 Heidelberg  
E-Mail: [zurhausen@dkfz-heidelberg.de](mailto:zurhausen@dkfz-heidelberg.de)  
<http://www.dkfz.de>  
Telefon: 06221 42-3850  
Telefax: 06221 42-3851

*Heidelberg, December 14, 2015/lb*

### **"Support for Greece"**

Dear President Tusk,

By this petition, we wish to ask the European political leaders and European Community authorities for "Support for Greece". This situation is competently described in a recent article of "Science", a copy of which find enclosed.

The Signatories of this petition sincerely hope that international political leaders in both Europe and USA, will take measures and actions in their power to support Science in Greece and to help the country to recover from its deep economic crisis. Greece, the birthplace of democracy and of human values is in the middle of a long, continuing and deep economic recession. This has affected severely and dramatically the lives of Greek citizens as well as the infrastructure of the country, threatening its future. This also threatens the Universities and the Research Institutions that produce innovation, necessary for growth. In these difficult times, the people, whose country is the cradle of European culture, should be supported with respect for what they have offered to culture and civilization and for what they can offer with their human potential.

The real problem in Greece is not the deficit but the mechanisms of creating deficit and debt. The remedy, obviously, is proper EC policy management, measures and proper use of the excellent human potential working at the Universities and Research Centers of the country.

Greek people are hard workers, innovative and creative. Greece possesses strong research institutions and excellent human potential. The Greek scientists in USA and Europe, contributing to the technological advances of the countries where they reside, are a good example of their potential. Evaluations of research in Europe place Greek Institutions in high position for their research productivity despite the cut-offs, grant restrictions, the shortage and reduced availability of high-tech infrastructure. It is unfair that the best part of the human resources, i.e.: young well-trained people move massively to other countries for a better future, thus strengthening other countries and weakening their own country and the options for recovery.

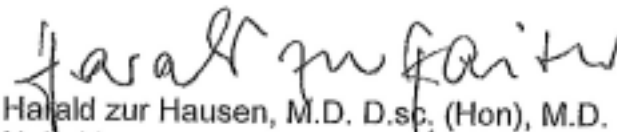
European funds for research and technology allocated to Greece are not yet released. The country has many Centers of Excellence with significant collaborations

around the world offering an appreciable cultural and scientific work product for the benefit of the international Science and Society. Austerity measures imposed to the country, hard and unfair for the citizens and for the academia, cannot lead anywhere. Measures and policies should contain the parameter of development or else they are ineffective, prohibit progress and result in further recession.

Immediate and appropriate actions should be taken to support science and the centers of excellence which can bring growth and prosperity to the country. By proper use of existing international structural funds for research and technology and in close cooperation between major International Science and Technology Centers with existing national clusters of excellence, Greece will move ahead contributing substantially to the progress of international Society and Humanity.

Greece really deserves support.

Sincerely,



Harald zur Hausen, M.D. D.sc. (Hon), M.D.  
Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine 2008

Encl.: List of Signatories and copy of article in SCIENCE, 10 July 2015, vol 349

Attention:

Jean-Claude Juncker  
President of the EU Commission  
Martin Schulz  
President of the European Parliament

## Nobel Laureates signatories of the "SUPPORT GREECE" Petition 2015

1. Prof. James D. Watson, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1953  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, USA
2. Prof. Peter Doherty, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1996  
John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australia
3. Prof. Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2009  
University of California, San Francisco, USA
4. Prof. Günter Blobel, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1999  
The Rockefeller University, USA
5. Prof. Edmond H. Fischer, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1992  
University of Washington, Seattle, USA
6. Prof. Jules A. Hoffmann, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2011  
Institut de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire, CNRS, France
7. Sir Richard Timothy (Tim) Hunt, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2001  
Cancer Research, UK
8. Prof. Wolfgang Ketterle, Nobel Prize in Physics 2001  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
9. Prof. Yuan T. Lee, Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1986  
Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
10. Prof. Robert, Lord May of Oxford, Royal Swedish Academy's Crafoord Prize 1996, University  
of Oxford, UK
11. Prof. Roger D. Kornberg, Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2006  
Stanford University, USA
12. Sir Richard J. Roberts, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1993  
Ipswich, USA
13. Prof. Hamilton O. Smith, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1978  
La Jolla, USA
14. Prof. Kurt Wüthrich, Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2002  
Zürich, SWITZERLAND and The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, USA
15. Prof. Albert Fert, Nobel Prize in Physics 2007  
University Paris-Sub, France