



**ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ
ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ (Ε.Σ.Ε.Τ.)**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY
(N.C.R.T.)**

Chair
Stamatis Krimizis
Johns Hopkins
University, USA

19/10/ 2011
REF: 81/ ESET

Vice-Chair
George Chrousos
Athens University
Medical School,
Greece

Dear fellow members of the academic and research communities,

Members
Constantinos Dafermos
Brown University, USA

Greece is at a Crossroads

Kevin Featherstone
London School of Economics

Michael Haliassos
Goethe University, Frankfurt

Ioannis Iliopoulos
Ecole Normale Supérieure Paris

Amedeo Odoni
MIT, USA

Aristides Patrinos
Synthetic Genomics Inc

George Pavlakis
Researcher, USA

Artemis P. Simopoulos
The Center for Genetics,
Nutrition and Health,
Washington, DC, USA

Doros Theodorou
National Technical
University of Athens

We write to you as members of the National Council for Research and Technology of Greece (ESET). Our role is to provide advice on the reorganization of the Greek research landscape, as an engine for future growth and as a tool for exit from the current economic crisis. There is, of course, a lot that needs to be achieved in order for Greece to correct errors of the past and to return to a path of economic growth.

The Council has been working on orderly and realistic plans to reform the country's research infrastructure and, in doing so, we have witnessed the determination of key stakeholders to reform the entire system and put Greece on a more effective track. Indeed, a new spirit is evident in favour of radical change and there is a great determination to restructure and overcome the present calamitous situation. There is much talent, dedication, and pockets of excellence to build on within the Greek scientific community.

But, the grave present danger is that the research infrastructure, as well as many other essential institutions relevant to its upgrading, may disintegrate due to the inordinate pressures being placed on the country. Please imagine if you were asked to restructure an entire research establishment, not even in months but in only a few weeks, as is being presently demanded by Greece's international creditors. Under such inordinate time pressure, the only choice is to make financial cuts indiscriminately and without evaluation, with potentially grave consequences to future prospects for recovery. It is imperative that Greece is afforded the opportunity for an orderly implementation of the much-needed reforms: these will take time and will need appropriate support. The process of restructuring has already been initiated, is under way, and should be allowed to proceed as such, with follow-on refinements as necessary, but must not be jeopardized.

In the present critical situation, we appeal in the strongest possible terms to our colleagues in the international scientific community to lend us their support and to make representations to help convince governments and relevant international bodies to show greater understanding and to establish a more reasonable path that will enable Greece to more realistically achieve objectives which we hold in common. We would welcome your statements of support and to be informed of any representations you undertake in this regard.

S. Krimizis
ESET Chair

skrimizis@academyofathens.gr