

Declaration on the Commitment of the Rectors of Slovak Higher Education Institutions
concerning the Adoption of the Principles of the European Charter for Researchers and
the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers

Rectors of Slovak Higher Education Institutions met at a workshop "The European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and their implementation in the Slovak republic" that was organized by the Slovak Rectors' Conference, the Ministry of Education of the Slovak republic and Slovak Academic Information Agency on 10 November 2005 in Bratislava within the Science week in Slovakia 2005 to discuss Commission's Recommendation from 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

Rectors of Slovak Higher Education Institutions, aware of reforms in the society aiming towards the establishment and strengthening of knowledge-based economy and sustainable growth at national and European level, joined the goals of the Lisbon Strategy and National Competitiveness Strategy of Slovakia until 2010 – Minerva. Convinced that the development of the society depends especially on its results in scientific research, arts, innovation force and quality education, they joined the establishment of the European Higher Education and Research Area and bent that Slovak Higher Education Institutions take an active part on it.

Rectors of Slovak Higher Education Institutions, aware of the importance to improve status of researchers at European and national level and convinced that the training of young researchers is an important tool for the human resources development in the sector of higher education, research and development, agree with analyses and presented perspectives and proposals that were published by the European Commission in its Recommendation concerning:

- The improvement of Europe's attractiveness for researchers;
- The strengthening of female researchers in research and development;
- The introduction and implementation of new instruments for career development of researchers;
- The Building of positive public approach to the profession of a researcher;

- The offering of systems for sustainable career development for researchers in every stage of their career regardless their contractual situation and chosen career path in research and development;
- The development of attractive, open and sustainable European labor market for researchers;
- The support of all forms of mobility as part of complex human resources policy in research and development at national, regional and institutional level and its full recognition in the evaluation and career development systems;
- The assurance of open, transparent and internationally comparable selection and recruitment procedures of researchers;
- The social and financial acknowledgement of researchers.

Rectors of Slovak Higher Education Institutions hereby declare their commitment that:

- They will adopt general principles and requirements stated in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and will bent to implement them in internal provisions of their institutions;
- They will inform researchers at their institutions about the Recommendation and will require that researchers /themselves/ enforce proposed recommendations;
- They will require the National Council of the Slovak republic and the Government of the Slovak republic to adopt legislative norms and measures that will appropriately support new perspectives as stated by Charter and Code;
- They will appeal to the Ministry of Education of the Slovak republic, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Union of Development and Research Organisations and other social and financial partners to implement policy and recommendations presented in the Recommendation.

In Bratislava, 10 November 2005