



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE BALTIC ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES ON RUSSIA'S ATTACKS ON UKRAINIAN SCIENCE AND CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, TALLINN-RIGA-VILNIUS

We, the Presidents of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, the Latvian Academy of Sciences, and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, express our strongest condemnation and deep outrage regarding the latest brutal act of terror by the Russian Federation – the Russian drone strike on the historic building of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in central Kyiv.

This airstrike, which claimed civilian casualties and caused a devastating fire in the scientific institution, cannot be considered an accidental military incident. This strike forms part of a broader pattern in which Ukrainian universities, research institutes, and other civilian infrastructure have repeatedly been damaged or destroyed by Russian attacks. Russian troops have previously ruthlessly destroyed key academic and research centres across the country, including:

V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, whose buildings and research infrastructure have repeatedly suffered extensive damage;

Zaporizhzhia National Polytechnic University, whose buildings and research infrastructure have repeatedly suffered extensive damage;

Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University in Mykolaiv, which has become a direct target of heavy artillery and missiles;

O. Palladin Institute of Biochemistry in Kyiv, where recent strikes have severely damaged laboratories and research samples accumulated over decades.

The destruction of civilian and academic infrastructure constitutes an assault on Ukraine's intellectual heritage and on the international scientific community.

On behalf of the scientific community of the Baltic States, we declare:

We express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and our affected colleagues, and we express special support to the leadership of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The physical destruction of infrastructure cannot break the intellectual resilience of the Ukrainian scientists.

We call on research institutions in the European Union and around the world not to invoke the neutrality of science as a reason for silence or inaction in the face of attacks on Ukrainian scientific institutions while Russian forces destroy universities, research institutes and other centres of learning and scholarship in Ukraine.

The Baltic Academies of Sciences demand that international scientific organizations (including All European Academies (ALLEA) and the International Science Council (ISC)) suspend any remaining institutional participation of Russian state research organisations in international scientific projects, governing bodies and committees for as long as Russia continues its war of aggression against Ukraine.

The Baltic States will continue and expand direct academic, financial, and material support for the affected Ukrainian research programmes to ensure the continuity of Ukrainian science and its integration into the European Research Area.

Science should serve to save and improve lives, not to destroy them. Russia's continuing aggression must meet with firm and united condemnation from the global scientific community and with meaningful institutional consequences.

Academician Mart Saarma
President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences

Academician Ivars Kalviņš
President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Academician Vytautas Nekrošius
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