

8. April 2013

**Prof. Dr. John Dudley, Präsident der Europäischen Physikalischen Gesellschaft**  
*an Vertreter der nationalen physikalischen Gesellschaften in  
Italien, Niederlande, Serbien, Ungarn, Spanien, England, Frankreich, Schweiz,  
Deutschland, Griechenland:*

Dear All

The purpose of this message is to follow-up on the discussion at Council on the Karlsruhe Physics Course (KPK) which was brought to our attention by the DPG.

The KPK has been developed over a number of years with a view to making physics more accessible, but its content has come under serious scrutiny because it is being widely promoted as a “preferred” way to teach physics and indeed some teachers are being actively directed to teach in this way instead of following more traditional approaches.

However, the DPG has identified a number of very serious problems with the KPK such as misrepresentations of basic concepts, and they published a statement in February 2013 critical of the KPK and discouraging its use.

Please note that the DPG did not ask EPS for endorsement of their position but, during discussions, there was broad agreement that if EPS looked independently at the KPK and agreed with the DPG position, then it could be appropriate to issue either a statement of support, or perhaps a more general statement on the role of learned societies in providing oversight of national educational programmes, textbooks etc.

But the first thing of course is to check the material. I have already asked the Physics Education Division of EPS for their help and they have agreed. In addition, if you have the time, I would appreciate your personal and/or collective opinions on the KPK. This will be of great help in deciding if/how we formulate a statement on the subject.

The relevant links to all the material are given below and attached; the core material is available in multiple languages, and I also attach the DPG report in German, as well as a word file that can be used together with <http://translate.google.com/> if you wish. But perhaps the best approach is if you can find some time to quickly review a small selection of the original course material and see what you think.

If possible I wonder if I could ask for some reactions within the next two weeks. This will ensure that we can make a timely response if needed.

Best regards

John

**KPK PHYSICS WEBSITE WITH FILES FOR DOWNLOAD (German and English,  
many other languages)**

<http://www.physikdidaktik.uni-karlsruhe.de/index.html>

[http://www.physikdidaktik.uni-karlsruhe.de/index\\_en.html](http://www.physikdidaktik.uni-karlsruhe.de/index_en.html)

[http://www.physikdidaktik.uni-karlsruhe.de/publication/pub\\_fremdsprachen/englisch.html](http://www.physikdidaktik.uni-karlsruhe.de/publication/pub_fremdsprachen/englisch.html)

### **WIKIPEDIA ENTRY (German)**

[http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karlsruher\\_Physikkurs](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karlsruher_Physikkurs)

### **DPG REPORTS**

I attach the PDF as well as a word file I have converted. If one does not read German, paragraphs can be translated at <http://translate.google.com/> if you wish.