

Korrespondenz mit dem Präsidenten der Europäischen Physikalischen Gesellschaft
Prof. Dr. John Dudley

In chronologischer Reihenfolge; E-Mail-Texte eingerückt

4. November 2013

M. le Professeur
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Dear Professor Dudley, dear Colleague,

I address to you with a request related to the controversy about the Karlsruhe Physics Course (KPK). I am the author of the KPK and thus the person which is most strongly affected by the initiative of the German Physical Society (DPG), about which you are informed.

First my questions: Does there exist any resolution or statement of the EPS on this subject? Does the EPS support the DPG initiative?

Le me briefly explain the reason for my request.

Due to the DPG initiative a problem has arisen, which is related to an important international project. Among several other measures the President of the DPG had sent a letter to the Chinese Physical Society (CPS), in which she insistently warns against the KPK, and in which she claims that the KPK contains "substantial errors". I attach a copy of her letter to this email.

The reason why she wrote this letter is that I am running a project in Shanghai since 2007. The KPK has been translated into Chinese. It was tested in China at several elite schools. The teachers involved have been coached by us in many training seminars. Their teaching was evaluated. The results have been reported in several symposia. A great number of Chinese teachers have visited German schools.

Upon successful completion of the testing our Chinese publisher (Shanghai Educational Publishing House) commissioned a new textbook, written by Chinese authors that presents the KPK ideas in such a way that there would be a chance for the new book to be admitted as an official school book.

The new book was just presented to the certification commission when the letter from the President of the DPG to the CPG arrived. The CPG has notified the certification commission and the publisher. As a consequence the authorization procedure has been discontinued. It had been planned that I should introduce the book last summer at the International Book Fair in Shanghai. My lecture was canceled.

The failure of the project in China has consequences not only for myself. A large number of Chinese scientists and teachers are also affected and deeply disappointed.

In the meantime I had the opportunity to talk with a representative of the CPS. He told me that the CPS will give the go-ahead to the project only when a letter or a notice would come from the DPG, in which the warning against the KPK is withdrawn. According to our experience about the behavior of the DPG in the previous months such a withdrawal will not occur.

I have heard that the EPS has dealt with the affair, but I know nothing about the outcome of any such discussion.

If the EPS does not join the opinion of the DPG and if the EPS does not approve the activities of the DPG against the KPK project, this would be an argument, that might encourage our Chinese colleagues to continue the project. Therefore again my questions:

Does there exist any resolution or statement of the EPS on the KPK - DPG contention? Does the EPS support the DPG initiative?

Since the question is urgent, I would be happy to get your answer rather soon.

Sincerely yours

Friedrich Herrmann

PS

I suppose that you are informed about the request of more than 20 professors of Theoretical Physics to withdraw the report against the KPK immediately

4. November 2013

Dear Dr. Hermann,

Thank you for your query.

The EPS has not published an official position on the Karlsruhe Physics Course (KPK). Nonetheless, we did commission an independent review of the KPK, which is in broad agreement with the position of the DPG. The EPS Executive Committee has expressed its support to the DPG for its handling of the matter.

I hope that this answers your questions.

Best regards

John

4. November 2013

Dear Dr. Dudley,

thank you for your quick response. I am surprised to learn that a review has been commissioned by the EPS, since I did not get any copy of it up to now. I take it for granted that, as the originator of the dispute, I should be the main addressee of such a review. I think that it would be good scientific practice to publish the review and to make the names of the reviewers known. So, I want to ask you to send me the text of the review.

Best regards

Friedrich Herrmann

Prof. Dudley hat auf diese E-Mail nicht mehr geantwortet.