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PRESS RELEASE

The Hermes Trade Union Federation of Higher Education and Scientific Research draws the attention of the public and the authorities to the catastrophic situation at the National Institute for Physics and Nuclear Engineering - Horia Hulubei (I.F.I.N.- H.H.) Magurele and publicly demands the emergency dismissal / revocation of the position of general manager of IFIN-HH of Mr. Nicolae-Victor Zamfir for the managerial disaster in which he pushed ELI-NP but also the other departments of the institute, culminating with the elimination of ELI-NP from the European consortium ELI!

In IFIN-HH the place of research was taken by a full-blown war between researchers and the general manager supported by his relatives with administrative management positions in the apparatus. Mr. Nicolae-Victor Zamfir benefited from all the financial, administrative, political and media support he requested, despotically leading the largest national institute in Romania since 2004.

Managerial and scientific problems reported by researchers have appeared very rarely in public, and the exclusion of ELI-NP from Europe is clear evidence of managerial incompetence. Furthermore, the French Government has instructed research institutions in France to cease all collaboration with IFIN-HH.

This is an unprecedented situation in research and amounts to an embargo, being obvious that Nicolae-Victor Zamfir has become a "persona non grata" for former partners and governments of their countries. Or, in physics, an experimentally proven fact becomes the rule. (Attached message from French officials)

Political support was not long in coming this time either. We observe with astonishment, even in the 12th hour, how the Secretary of State responsible for scientific research, Dragoș Ciuparu, refuses to present the reality to the public. He is aware of both the French embargo and the decision to remove the ELI-NP from the European Consortium and not now, but for a year, delivers fake-news after fake-news to keep Mr. Zamfir in office of General Manager of IFIN-HH with whom he has a close friendship. Even Mr. Dragoș Ciuparu signed an illegal Order extending his term of office as general manager, a document kept secret by the MEC to make it difficult to challenge him in court. Mr. Zamfir is 68 years old and has a resounding managerial failure that does not allow him to hold office. The news of the elimination of ELI-NP from the European consortium appeared in the journal Nature since May 28, 2019, a year ago, and the messages of lament sent these days do not honor a researcher. Mr. Dragoș Ciuparu has definitively discredited himself and it is obvious that he can no longer manage the field of scientific research.

As the irregularities in the activity of Mr. Nicolae-Victor Zamfir are innumerable, we will insist on only a few aspects, the most serious, proven beyond any discussion:

Elimination of ELI-NP from the European ELI consortium (ERIC) and loss of European funding;

- Failure to contract with European partners for the construction of the gamma system within ELI-NP and deterioration of relations with EuroGammaS member countries;
- Bringing IFIN-HH under embargo with France, IFIN-HH being excluded from all collaborations with institutions in France;
- The inexplicable sabotage of the international collaborations of the Nuclear Physics Department of IFIN-HH, perhaps for the decrease of the scientific production of the researchers, seen as a threat for his position of general director of IFIN-HH, position illegally occupied;
- Using the position of chairman of the Board of Directors of IFIN-HH to induce among employees the idea of dissolving the Scientific Council of the institute by Decision of the Board, however, at the request of researchers, he can not provide the Decision of the Board he invokes. The Board of Directors has no scientific attributions, and the members of the Scientific Council are elected by vote by researchers, as is done in all national institutes, and the president of the SC is a full member of the Board of Directors. Worse is that, on the official page of the research directorate from MEC, the state secretary Dragoş Ciuparu has already eliminated the name of the elected president of the SC from the composition of the Board, becoming complicit in the abuse of the general director / chairman of the Board;
- Initiating numerous disciplinary or ethical investigations against researchers, in order to dismiss them, using reports that falsify reality and invent facts, which in any case do not constitute disciplinary offenses and which would fall before any Independent Commission for Disciplinary Investigation. At IFIN-HH, the commission is composed of those who made the notification in all cases, ie members of the IFIN-HH Steering Committee and persons with management positions at ELI-NP;
- Prohibition of access to the premises of IFIN-HH of the union representative for assisting a union member before the Disciplinary Investigation Commission and refusal to communicate the documents underlying the disciplinary investigation;
- Refusal to organize competitions for leadership positions and dismissal of those who do not respond to its illegal orders;
- Signing very discreetly, without the knowledge of researchers, a technical assistance contract of 35,000 Euro / day without VAT for operation and maintenance of ELI-NP laser systems, a total of 30 million euros plus VAT to be paid from IFIN-HH own funds, effort financial that will destabilize the other departments in the long run. (Annexed)

All these clear abuses are complemented by the atmosphere of terror instilled in the institute and the constant harassment of researchers who, in his view, would jeopardize his position as director general. In order to preserve its privileges, it is ready to sacrifice the entire institute, which should not

be allowed in any way by the authorities who have in hand the solution to save IFIN-HH by revoking the order appointing the director general. The institute has enough experienced researchers who can legally hold the position of general manager to bring IFIN-HH back to the forefront of Romanian and international research.

The federation will make every effort to save the national institutes, the research from the clutches of these "barons" and the complicit authorities.

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Message from french authorities

Hello,

I would first like to wish you a happy new year 2020.

I would like to write you about our December telephone exchange about your collaboration with the partner IFIN HH within the framework of the European project ENSAR2.

According to the recommendations of the Directorate of Legal Affairs (DAJ) of the CNRS, I would like to inform you that any future project of cooperation with the IFIN-HH must be aborted.

At present, it is not possible to sign new contracts with IFIN. All contracts are frozen and it is not possible to start collaborations with this partner.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Best regards,

Valentina FAVATA

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