



Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

**Statement of the German Academic Exchange Service
Regarding the European Charter for Researchers
and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers**

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

- welcomes and supports the European Commission's Recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers (the "Charter") and on the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers;
- recognises the important contribution the Charter makes for the development of more stable and attractive careers for researchers in Europe;
- contributes its support of the European Commission's Recommendations on the Charter by establishing its own funding programmes as a means of enhancing all forms of mobility;
- employs the Charter as an instrument for quality assurance to provide for a sustained high level of quality in their funding programmes for junior researchers.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) agrees to become a signatory to the Charter, subject to the following clarifications:

- The Charter is aimed at both employers and funders. Its recommendations therefore also include areas which can only be partially implemented by funders, if at all.
- The recommendations of the Charter require that researchers ensure that their research is useful and relevant to society. The DAAD considers this is an unnecessary constraint, incompatible with the principles of freedom of research. The DAAD will continue to support excellent projects in the area of basic

research whose relevance to society and usefulness may not be initially apparent.

- The DAAD maintains that the existence of national funding programmes aimed at scholars of specific countries and regions, which involves selection based on national origin, is indispensable. The establishment of regional programmes does not constitute discrimination. In order to prevent jeopardising national funding programmes as important funding sources for researchers, decision-making based on regional politics and scientific policies must be allowed to continue.
- Funding instruments requiring certain criteria for application, e.g. language skills, also do not constitute discrimination.
- Specific funding of scholars with grants and awards for independently chosen cross-border cooperation outside of the employment relationship must be deemed valuable and preserved as a useful systematic contribution towards the advancement of individual careers.

Bonn,

16.09.08



Dr. Christian Bode
(Secretary general)