

9 on Presenting the Results of the International Expert Commission on the Evaluation of the Excellence Initiative

TU9 President Professor Hans Jürgen Prömel: “The Imboden Report sets out clear goals for the future Excellence Initiative. Now it’s up to the Federal and Länder governments to reach quick decisions on its structure and design.”

Berlin/Darmstadt, January 29, 2016 – The Excellence Initiative has changed Germany’s science landscape like no other program before it. Its strengths lie in its competitive approach, strict quality assurance according to international standards and a special focus on enhancing the science system. For Professor Hans Jürgen Prömel, President of TU9, the Imboden Commission report confirms “in an impressive way the performance potential that the Excellence Initiative has released.” And, he adds: “The report sets out clear goals for the future Excellence Initiative, namely first-class research at autonomous universities.”

President Prömel calls on policymakers to “make the necessary decisions on continuing the Excellence Initiative without further delay.” Those decisions should then be used to agree an appropriate period for a science-led selection process.

Prömel sees the introduction of an “Excellence Award” as an “interesting proposal” – one that is well-suited to making competition even more transparent and to simplifying processes. It is important, he said, to agree on clear criteria that enable universities to move up and down the rankings. This is the only way for the reform mechanism used in the first Excellence Initiative to be upheld and for the proposed structural reforms to be continued in a purposeful way.

Background

The international, independent Expert Commission jointly commissioned by the Federal and Länder governments began its work on evaluating the Excellence Initiative and its impact on the German science system in September 2014. Led by scientist Dieter Imboden, the “International Expert Commission for the Evaluation of the Excellence Initiative” (IEKE) presented its report on January 29, in Berlin.

About TU9

TU9 is the Alliance of leading Universities of Technology in Germany: RWTH Aachen University, Technische Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Technical University of Darmstadt, Technische Universität Dresden, Leibniz University Hannover, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Technical University of Munich, and University of Stuttgart.

Tradition, excellence, and innovation are the hallmarks of TU9 Universities. Founded during the Industrial Age, they contributed decisively to technological progress back then and continue to do so today. They enjoy an outstanding reputation around the world as renowned research and teaching institutions that promote the transfer of knowledge and technology between universities and practice. As such, they train exceptional young academics for careers in science, business, and administration and assume social responsibility. TU9 Universities foster top-class international networks and diverse cooperation with industry, making them a key element of Germany’s position as a location of science and innovation.

PRESS RELEASE



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