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## EURsearch

The appearance of *ACADEMIA* magazine has met with a very positive reception. This is evidenced by the numerous letters we have received from research institutions, embassies, and individuals (including foreign members of the Polish Academy of Sciences) praising the information content of the magazine, its graphical layout, and the vividness of its texts and pictures. We are glad that you have taken a liking to our publication, and that it is playing the role we intended. But above all, such kind words addressed to the staff of *ACADEMIA* encourage us to work hard to make sure that subsequent issues live up to your expectations.

Our country is now but a few weeks away from the historical moment of gaining European Union membership. Nevertheless, the Polish nation, living almost in the center of Europe, has for centuries been aware that we belong to this continent not only in the geographical sense, but also in terms of culture and civilization. This is most eminently underscored by the interview with **Professor Leszek Kołakowski** (p. 42), although aspects illustrating this fact can also be found in the other articles herein. This second issue of our magazine is largely devoted to how research being done at PAN institutions demonstrates that scientific ties between Poland and EU countries have existed for many years. A poignant example of this can be found in Polish scientists' considerable contribution to the research done at CERN, carried out jointly with representatives of 19 other European countries (*"Hunting for New Particles"* p. 4). Our involvement in the EU's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programmes, albeit still too modest, also demonstrates that Polish science has outpaced other social and economic fields in our country in terms of establishing ties and engaging in integrative projects with the rest of Europe.

Many projects being pursued at PAN institutions are either directly tied to EU research programs or constitute an integral part of the wider European research field. For this issue of *ACADEMIA*, we have selected articles that are highly pertinent to our country's entry into the EU. Many scientific studies extend beyond the frontiers of individual countries. It would be truly difficult, for example, to imagine how research on **huge geological structures** (p. 16) might be carried out on the territory of but a single country. Other articles address "trans-border" issues, such as a **demographic analysis** of the increasingly more important phenomenon of migration (p. 20). **Environmental protection** (p. 8) likewise also only makes sense when it is pursued in a coordinated way, on a larger regional scale.

When reading about such accomplishments, it is hard not to gather the conviction that science is not European, Polish, or German. It is global and cosmopolitan. This can be demonstrated, for example, by the success of the **International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology** in Warsaw (described in our "Insight" section). We hope that following EU accession, a date of such historical significance for our country, such examples will become increasingly more common - that Polish scientists will be able to contribute even more to world science, and that scholars from other countries will be ever more eager to do research at institutes in Poland.

### ACADEMIA staff

**CERN is a mecca for elementary particle physicists (see page 4)**

