

'Open Letter for Spanish Science'

The Confederation of Spanish Scientific Societies, Comisiones Obreras (I+D+i), the Federation of Young Researchers, and Investigacion Digna has issued an open [letter](#) to the government in Spain, calling for a halt to the gutting of government funds for R&D. When the letter was first issued in March, the authors, projecting a 8.65% cut over 2011 levels, warned that if ratified, Public Research organs would have suffered an accumulated 30% reduction of their budgets since 2009. Since then, the government has announced that funding for R&D and science will be cut by 25%.

The letter, signed by over 46,000 Spaniards and foreign scientists by late April, warns that the pro-

posed budget “would cause considerable long-term damage to the already weakened Spanish research system, contributing to its collapse.”

“The characteristics of scientific research require decades for the formation of a skilled workforce,” according to the statement. “Spain does not have an R&D private sector that can absorb and take advantage of highly qualified researchers. This human resource, which has been trained thanks to a considerable national investment and is best prepared to contribute to the shift to a knowledge-based economy, will have no choice but to emigrate or leave research altogether. The country faces a multi-generational ‘brain drain’ (from researchers starting their PhDs to those in their mid forties). Spain also risks the chance of undermining the interest in science of the younger generations (now children and teenagers). . . .

“...*‘If you think education is expensive, try ignorance’* (Derek Bok).”