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To: Nobel Laureates signatories of
the "Support for Greece" Petition 2015

Athens, Greece, January 7, 2016

Letter of gratitude for the "Support for Greece" petition

Dear sirs,

With this letter, on behalf of the **Hellenic Informatics Union's (HIU)**¹ and all the Informatics scientists, professionals and researchers in Greece, we wish to express our *deepest gratitude and respect* for your initiative for supporting the **"Support for Greece" petition** (2015). Your sincere interest and academic viewpoint provides an invaluable voice to what is going on in Greece and how it must be remedied.

The HIU, established in 2001, is the official representative of all scientists in the field of Informatics & Communications Technologies (ICT), with a university (BSc) degree in Informatics, Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Software Engineering in Greece. We are committed to the preservation of high standards in the scientific, professional, technical and ethical code of conduct for the people working in various areas related to ICT, including Education, Research & Development, Industry, Academia, Government, etc. Our primary goal is the proper organization of the ICT field in Greece, in terms of academic

¹<https://www.linkedin.com/company/hellenic-informatics-union>

and professional standards, through the establishment of a National Chamber of Informatics (NCI), a critical actor that does not yet exist.

Greece is undergoing the eighth consecutive year of a very difficult economic recession and GDP shrinkage (over 30%), with a substantial impact in every aspect of the Greek society, including Education, national Healthcare and ICT-related projects of national scale. One in four people in the active workforce, three out of five young people with skills and academic degrees, are still unemployed. More than 250.000 of them have already migrated to other countries in what is called the most massive “brain drain” of our times. There are less than 3.000 high-ranked prominent R&D professionals (PhDs and post-docs) remaining here in Greece - a very small “army” altogether, but still more than enough for a fresh start of the economy, if proper steps are made and viable policies are adopted, *right now*.

International initiatives like the “Support for Greece” petition, together with the public support from the absolute top of the international academic community, constitutes an extremely important asset in our struggle to get our country back on its feet. We thank you and we promise not to give up.

Yours sincerely,

Harris Georgiou
HIU, Gen. Secretary (A.C.)

cc: Hellenic Informatics Union (HIU) - Secretarial Office