

# Government Council elects new Commission for Climate Action members

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**The regular session of the Government Council for Research, Development and Innovation (the Council), chaired by Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, took place on Friday, 29 May at the Straka Academy. Main points on the agenda included implementation of the 2017+ Evaluation Methodology and election of Commission for Climate Action members. Globally acclaimed physicist Ajay Kumar Sood was appointed as a member of the International Council.**

**The session's conclusions continue to reflect the months-long threat of the Coronavirus pandemic.**

The first agenda item the Council addressed was the continuing topic of **Implementation of the 2017+ Methodology**. The Council members were advised about the progress of assessment at national level in the third year of implementation, and then they approved the Call for Submission of Selected Results in the fourth year, with a strong appeal to the research organisations that should, as part of the basic limit, submit for assessment types of results that are commensurate to their goal and mission.



*Vice-charman of the RD&I Council P. Dvorak during the session.*

*"Research organisations' best results are their display window. This is the basis for one part of the new research assessment, as was the case in Great Britain, for instance. This year's round of assessment of a relatively small sample of the best results is important*

*because during this start-up period for the new assessment method it is open to any type of results without restriction. Thus research organisations are carefully selecting the best that they researched or put into practice, while at the same time searching for what best defines their area of focus. It is a hard task and above all, prestige is at stake. This is yet another important step in the cultivation of our research environment,"* added the Council's first Vice-Chairman, Petr Dvořák.

The Council initiated informal discussion mainly with university representatives about assessment of applied research where the outputs have an impact on life in society, health, industry, agriculture and public administration. An informal meeting of Council members on this topic will be held in June, led by Deputy Prime Minister Karel Havlíček, who is the Vice-Chairman of the Council.

The Council also acknowledged the appointment of **Prof. MUDr. Roman Prymula, CSc., Ph.D.** as Government Commissioner for Science and Research, and is awaiting clarification of the jurisdiction of the individual players in the field of health research.

Preparation of the draft state-budget expenditure for RD&I is a regular topic of the session. This year, this legal process is encumbered by the consequences of the epidemiological situation and the resulting emergency situations in the economy and the state's economic activities. In connection with the approved postponement of the deadline for preparation of the draft bill on the 2021 state budget, therefore, the Council will go back to negotiating the draft science and research budget at its session in June.

The Council approved the important National RD&I Policy 2021+ conceptual document, which took several years to prepare, and will now submit it to the Government. This document was negotiated consensually, including the supplemented measure no. 27, which opens up opportunities to redefine the priorities of oriented research towards supporting areas that are becoming current in light of new challenges (threats to society) both globally and on the national level.

Another of the Council session's key agenda items was to recommend to the Chairman two new candidates as **Commission for Climate Action** members by way of secret ballot. These are **Ing. Daniel Beneš, MBA**, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of ČEZ, a.s., and **RNDr. Radim Tolasz, Ph.D.**, Head of the Climate Change Department at the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute and Czech representative in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

*"Radim Tolasz is a leading professional in the field of climate research and Radim Beneš is a manager who has long been interested in climate issues both due to the nature of his work and on a personal level. So when voting, there was an optimal meeting of two poles of approach; one, proposed by the Council active since September 2019, was also a proposal to add further members from the climatology, economics, industry and energy fields,"* said the Vice-Chairman, Pavel Baran, about the outcome of the vote.

The Prime Minister appointed **Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood** as a member of the Council's advisory body (the International Council) on 30 April. The Professor is a leading Indian physicist and nanotechnology scientist. Professor Sood works at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research in Bangalore.