



The PAUSE Program: welcoming scientists in exile

March 2, 2017

at the Collège de France

Under the patronage of the President of the French Republic

In the presence of Bernard Cazeneuve and Thierry Mandon

"Saving a life, saving ideas"

On Thursday March 2, the Collège de France welcomed French Prime Minister, Mr. Cazeneuve, and the French Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, Mr. Thierry Mandon, who participated in an event in the presence of the various stakeholders of the PAUSE program (*Programme d'Aide à l'accueil en Urgence des Scientifiques en Exil*), alongside numerous benefactors and members of the media.

The program, launched on January 16 by the Secretariat of State and led by the Collège de France with support from the Paris Education Board and City Hall, aims to promote and support the welcoming of scientists and intellectuals from countries where the political situation prevents them from doing their job and puts their life and that of their family in danger.

The first call for applications which ended on February 10, proved, if such a thing were necessary, the urgent need for such a program: 55 applications were received and studied in a very short time frame, of which 25 were approved by the program's executive committee. The applications, which continue to pour in, are mainly from Syria, Turkey, Iraq and Yemen.

The requests are most frequently sent by the higher education establishments and research bodies who will welcome and co-finance the applicants. A second call for applications is currently ongoing and will end on March 24.



In a forceful and well-constructed speech, the French Prime Minister Mr. Cazeneuve made reference to a similar initiative taken by the Rapkin committee in the 1930s, and staunchly argued against the reticent and xenophobic attitudes which fail to respect the ideals of the French Republic, harm its image and its interests.

The French Prime Minister encouraged benefactors to give generously, affirmed the French government's support for the Secretariat of State for Higher Education and Research's initiative, and promised additional funding which will prove essential in the light of the influx of requests.

The program relies upon the patronage of individuals and private companies and as such a convention was signed between the Collège de France and the Fondation de France, whose commitment was highlighted by its Chairman Philippe Lagayette, to enable the latter to receive donations for the program (<https://dons.fondationdefrance.org/PAUSE/~mon-don/>).

For more information on the PAUSE program:

<https://www.college-de-france.fr/site/programme-pause/index.htm#content.htm>

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