

Nominator's Supporting Statement for Sierd Cloetingh

Anne Buttmer, Chair of the Social Sciences Section and AE Vice-President

Moshe Yaniv, Outgoing Chair, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Section

We would like to express our heartfelt support for the candidature of Professor Sierd Cloetingh as the incoming president of Academia Europaea for a number of reasons.

Professor Cloetingh is a distinguished scientist and scholar in the field of earth sciences who has gained world recognition for the excellence of his research. He has trained a generation of young scientists and has received an impressive number of international awards and honorary degrees.

At the European level Prof Cloetingh has been an extremely active promoter of Europe-wide scientific collaborations through a number of extremely successful projects. Among these the “Topo Europe” endeavour has evoked a broad cross-disciplinary interest in landscape and life throughout the continent. He is a member of the European Research Council and has been President of the European Geophysical Society.

He has been a member of our Academy for more than 20 years, chairing the Section of Earth and Cosmic Sciences for 10 years and acting as a member of the council since 1999. For the past five years he has served as AE Vice-President and is therefore well apprised of the various challenges and opportunities facing Academia. Through our activities as section chairs and members of the council we have always been impressed by Prof Cloetingh’s deep commitment to the Academy and to all of its wide-ranging interests. We were always impressed by his vision and his extremely useful contributions to the activities of the council. He has not only promoted existing section agenda, but has also encouraged innovation, serving as a vital contact person with the Young Academy of Europe.

It is this rare combination of an extremely creative scientist, an excellent organizer and a man of vision that motivates us to support him as our next president. We are confident that he could lead the Academy forward in all of its pan-European activities, to increase the impact of the Academy in the European research area and to further build up its distinguished membership.