Dear rectors and presidents of the universities and academic colleges in Israel,

on behalf of all HRK member institutions, I would once again like to express the solidarity of German universities with Israeli universities and colleges and all their members in these difficult times.

I am deeply concerned about the increasing attempts to isolate academic institutions and scientists in Israel internationally. Calls for boycotts of this kind are not new, but since the brutal attack by Hamas on 7 October and the subsequent war between Israel and Hamas, these calls have taken on a new dimension. I would like to emphasise that the German Rectors’ Conference is against any form of boycott against Israeli academics and Israeli academic institutions. The gradual, often subtle exclusion of Israeli academics contradicts the basic principles of academic cooperation and academic freedom.

We strongly advocate cooperation and the continuation of work with you and call on all academics in Germany to continue or even strengthen cooperation with Israel.

I very much hope that cooperation between our organisations as well as between German and Israeli universities and scientific institutions will be further strengthened in the future.

Sincerely yours

Walter Rosenthal