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HRK calls for plans for future education funding to be confirmed without delay

The German Rectors' Conference (HRK) supports the change to Article 91b of the Basic Law initiated by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. "This creates the constitutional framework in which the urgently needed collaboration of the federal government and federal states on financing the higher education institutions can be put on a reliable foundation," said HRK President Prof. Dr. Horst Hippler today in Bonn.

The Senate of the HRK had already renewed its calls on the federal government and federal states to deliver sustainable improvement to the basic financing for higher education. With the agreement of the federal government to provide funding within the framework of the German Federal Law on Support in Education (BAföG), and also for the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation, the federal states now have some room in which to manoeuvre. The BAföG funds should be allocated fully to the higher education institutions. The members of Senates also warned against providing the money only through special programmes again, or even using it to balance out budget deficits.

It was also important, they said, to conclude negotiations on a sustainable and cost-covering financing of university places in accordance with the latest forecast by the KMK. They also said it was necessary to gradually increase the programme allowances as the research funding had not been designed to cover costs up to now. In order to not put previous successes regarding the international attractiveness and competitiveness of the German higher education system at risk, it was also necessary to build on excellence funding in research and teaching by making the financing provided hitherto more dynamic.

The Senate of the HRK further emphasised that "the constitutionally protected freedom of career choice must be ensured with sufficient funding of higher education institutions".

Text of the resolution