

I would like to stress the distinction between an Academy and a scientific society. An Academy is a body of peers co-opted by peers: membership is limited and normally lifelong, representing recognition of scientific merit rather than participation through membership fees. A scientific society, by contrast, is open to those interested in pursuing its aims, and members pay dues. Its president has a mandate to direct the society, rather than merely represent it. I therefore believe that the Académie should preserve its character as an Academy, especially since the field of history of science already has international, european, and national scientific societies.

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