

PRESS RELEASE

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Chairman appointed to the working group on scientific dishonesty

On 13 January 2003 the Danish Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Helge Sander, asked the Danish Research Agency—based on experience to date from the work done on the Danish Committees on Scientific Dishonesty and on the debate currently in progress—to evaluate whether there is any need to adjust the regulatory basis governing DCSD's work.

In this connection, the Danish Research Agency intends to form a working group.

Mogens N. Pedersen, professor of political science at the University of Southern Denmark, has now been appointed chairman of the working group by the director of the Research Agency.

"I am pleased that Mogens N. Pedersen will be taking on the task. I am sure that with his experience from similar assignments and his legitimacy in wide circles, he is the right man for the job," says the Director of the Research Agency, Jens Morten Hansen.

Mogens N. Pedersen has taken part in several large-scale evaluations of Dutch and Norwegian political science. In addition, he has been both head of department and dean at the University of Southern Denmark. Until the end of 2002, Mogens N. Pedersen was chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Centre for Development Research and chairman of the Committee for the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights under the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (AC). Finally, he has for 14 years been editor-in-chief of the *European Journal of Political Research* and for six years chairman of the *European Consortium for Political Research*.

Mogens N. Pedersen states:

"For a number of years now I have been following DCSD's work and in the process I have also sensed that there might be a need for an 'overhaul' of DCSD's regulatory basis".

"Internationally, there is intense focus on relations between research and the public, on research ethics and on dissemination—i.e. the role of the media in this context. At the same time, a phrase like "interdisciplinary cooperation" has become a mantra in recent years. If it is wished to promote that form of collaboration, it is important to take a look at the rules governing DCSD's activities. It cannot simply be assumed that the standards for good scientific conduct are the same within all branches of science," Mogens N. Pedersen maintains.

The Danish Research Agency will now ask a number of institutions and organizations to present proposals for members of the working group. This is expected to be set up at the beginning of February 2003.

"The working party will be given a free hand to organize its work. But I do hope we shall see the working party's recommendations this side of the summer holidays," says Jens Morten Hansen.

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