

Statement of the Foundation Board
on the Evaluation Commission's Report on the Evaluation of the Centre for East European and
International Studies in 2023.

At its meeting on 12 June 2023, the ZOIS Foundation Board discussed the results of the scientific evaluation in detail and formulated a statement in this regard:

The Foundation Board would like to thank the Evaluation Commission, ZOIS's Academic Advisory Board and ZOIS itself for all their work. The Foundation Board recognises and thanks the Institute for its successful efforts to establish the Institute over the last few years.

The Foundation Board shares the Commission's assessment with regard to the following points:

- The Institute is a valuable addition to existing academic and science-related structures and acts as an independent institute in the research landscape.
- In its mission to conduct basic research and communicate its findings, the Institute is performing very well.
- While it does not aspire to be a think tank, the Institute is particularly successful in showing, through its research findings, how research and communication in and for the public and political spheres are inextricably linked.

The Foundation Board also recognises ZOIS's efforts to support young researchers, the links it has forged in the research region and the successful acquisition of third-party funding in science-driven competition.

The Foundation Board would like to emphasise that the scientific independence of the Institute has never been called into question in the past and this will continue to be the case in future.

The Foundation Board makes the following concrete recommendations for ZOIS's future work:

- Access to scientific literature for all the Institute's employees must be improved and ensured.
- Research communication, especially in the political arena, is to be strengthened, with a corresponding increase in the resources allocated to this area.
- The Foundation Board supports the establishment of a fellowship programme, provided the Institute secures the required funding to do so.

With regard to the changes to the governance structure recommended in the report, the Chair of the Foundation Board has been asked to make suggestions. This concerns both the disentanglement of the Foundation and the gGmbH, which the Foundation Board believes should result in research being more strongly represented in the future supervisory body, as well as continued efforts to ensure ZOIS's independence as a research institute. With this in mind, discussions should be held with university and non-university research institutes with a similar research profile in order to explore opportunities for greater – and possibly also formalised – cooperation.

Berlin, December 2023