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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Academy of Sciences Agrees New Charter

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More than a thousand academics gathered on Thursday to approve the new charter of the unified Russian Academy of Sciences, or RAN.

Out of 1,428 academy members, only 13 voted against the charter, while 3 abstained, Interfax reported.

RAN president Vladimir Fortov said that the charter was drawn up by a commission comprising representatives of the three academies in full compliance with the reform law.

The charter will be sent to the government either on Friday or Monday for consideration, Fortov said.

A reform law passed in September 2013 merged the academies of medical sciences and agricultural sciences with RAN and transferred the responsibility for managing their property to the Federal Agency for Scientific Organizations.

The law's supporters said that the decision to hand over property management to the agency would free up extra time for academics to concentrate on their work, but the legislation was criticized vehemently in the scientific community amid fears that RAN would miss out on a key source of funding.

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