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To whom it may concern

Garching, March 9th, 2019

Re: Prof. Dr. Radek Zboril, Director RCPTM, Olomouc, Czech Republic.

Dear Sir, Madam, Commission,

it was brought to my notice that Prof. Radek Zboril is involved among co-authors in a case of a past publication (2007), where a possible ethical issue is currently considered. Certainly, I cannot refer to this case in any respect, I nevertheless feel authorized to communicate to you my personal view of Prof. Zboril's attitude as a member of the international scientific community.

In my capacity as Chair of Inorganic and Metal-Organic Chemistry at Technical University of Munich, Director of the TUM Catalysis Research Centre, Vice-President of German Research Foundation (DFG), as a Member of the Advisory Board of RCPTM and author or co-author of about 500 international research publications and supervisor of about 80 doctoral students and 30 post docs, I have been involved in all aspects of securing good scientific practice.

I am collaborating with Prof. Zboril since 2015 on combination of metal organic frameworks and 2D materials for various applications. Our work also includes shared supervision of post-docs and exchange of doctoral students. So far our work resulted in several high impact publications in *Advanced Materials*, *Angewandte Chemie*, *Advanced Science*, *Advanced Functional Materials*, etc. During this collaboration and personal meetings both in Olomouc and in Munich, I was always impressed by Prof Zboril's enthusiasm, very broad scientific background and his insightful discussion of the primary data, the key aspects, the significance and originality of each manuscript at each state of processing. I found his contributions to be always extraordinarily precise and accurate in data interpretation pushing his co-workers to verify all the hypotheses and obtained data, including reproducibility and securing primary data accessibility. Recently, we both were involved in a manuscript drafted by a former post doctoral fellow hired at RCPTM, now working at the US. It was submitted to a Nature family journal; however, the manuscript was actually not approved for submission by us. Prof. Zboril immediately took action, communicated with the corresponding author, the editorial office trying to settle the situation in a wise fashion. However, unfortunately, it was necessary to insist on withdrawing the manuscript because of unresolved issues and possible violation of scientific ethical rules.

To my judgment, also based on the experience as former member of the Editorial Board of *Angewandte Chemie*, I regard Prof Zboril's scientific attitude to be as excellent as it can be in his position.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Roland A. Fischer

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