

**The testimony of Edouard Brezin,**  
president of the French Academy of Sciences

*“Despite the importance for our understanding of quantum mechanics of Alain Aspect’s major contribution to experimental tests of the violation of Bell’s inequalities, his work can’t be boiled down to this major contribution alone. The whole of the contemporary physics of the interaction between matter and radiation is marked by the groundbreaking experiments that he carried out. For instance, working in cooperation with Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, he succeeded in achieving radiative cooling below the energy threshold of photon recoil, or just recently, the first experimental creation of a Bose-Einstein condensate of helium atoms in a metastable state. Current atomic physics, marked as it is by concepts such as entanglement or coherence-decoherence which used to be restricted to the realm of ideas, is a highly creative area, and Alain Aspect is one of the world’s major players in this field.”*