intrinsic activation energy, $E_{a,i}$

If $E_{a,1}$ and $E_{a,-1}$ are the activation energies for a reaction in forward and reverse directions, the lesser of the two is sometimes called the intrinsic activation energy. It is the activation energy for the reaction in the exothermic direction.

**Source:**

PAC, 1996, 68, 149 (A glossary of terms used in chemical kinetics, including reaction dynamics (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)) on page 170