



European Organization for Nuclear Research
Organisation européenne pour la recherche nucléaire

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His Excellency
Mr Kristen Michal
Prime Minister of the Republic of
Estonia

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Your Excellency,

I am writing to solicit your support for the future of CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, the world's leading centre for high-energy particle physics.

Established in 1954, CERN is an extraordinary achievement of common vision and collaboration in Europe, and has given the continent a global leadership role in fundamental research and related technologies.

CERN builds and operates highly sophisticated instruments and develops breakthrough technologies in a variety of fields. Many of these technologies have had a significant impact on society, from the World Wide Web to accelerators used in cancer treatment facilities. CERN also serves as a rich, multidisciplinary training ground for the next generation of physicists, engineers, IT professionals and technicians from across Europe and acts as a bridge between national research institutions and industries, promoting the free flow of talent, ideas and technologies.

We were honoured to welcome Estonia as our 24th Member State last year, building on an important scientific collaboration. Estonian scientists, engineers and IT professionals contribute across the scientific programme at CERN, and the Organization works closely with Estonian industry, which benefits from high-tech contracts and skills development, while Estonian students and teachers are hosted in dedicated programmes at CERN. We are deeply grateful for the continued support of the Government of Estonia and for the close collaboration with the Permanent Mission in Geneva.

CERN enjoys a long-standing partnership with the European Union (EU). All EU member countries are engaged with CERN, as Member States, Associate Member States or through scientific collaboration. In his recent report on “The future of European competitiveness”, Mario Draghi underlined that CERN is a notable example of the remarkable returns from the joint collaboration of European countries, and that “ensuring its continued global leadership in frontier research should be regarded as a top EU priority, given the objective of maintaining European prominence in this critical area of fundamental research, which is expected to generate significant business spillovers in the coming years”.


CERN is now preparing an ambitious future based on its next flagship project, the Future Circular Collider (FCC). As is set out in the attached explanatory notes, the FCC would secure continued world leadership for Europe in a critical area of groundbreaking science and technology, and would thus contribute to strengthening European competitiveness, industry, innovation, security and strategic autonomy until the end of the 21st century. There is strong competition with China, which is considering building a similar machine.

The total investment cost of the FCC is estimated to be around 15 billion Swiss francs in capital expenditure. The major part of the funding would come from CERN's regular annual budget. A significant contribution from the European Union would be crucial to making the FCC a reality and to ensuring that the project remains predominantly European in nature.

As discussions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework are proceeding, I hope that we can rely on the support of Estonia, together with all of our Member and Associate Member States that are also EU member countries, to secure a dedicated budget line for the future flagship project at CERN.

The establishment of CERN was the result of the extraordinary vision of political leaders and scientists at a challenging time in Europe's history. I am convinced that we need the same level of foresight today in the service of a strong future for Europe.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Fabiola Gianotti
Director-General

cc: H.E. Ms Kristina Kallas, Minister of Education and Research of Estonia
H.E. Ms Riia Salsa-Audiffren, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Dr Mario Kadastik, CERN Council Delegate for Estonia
Dr Kairi Otto, CERN Council Delegate for Estonia