

ECFA EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR FUTURE ACCELERATORS

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Mme la Ministre Frédérique Vidal
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Geneva, 11 October 2021

Dear Minister,

It was a great pleasure for the European Committee for Future Accelerators (ECFA) to visit France on 10 and 11 September 2021. Restricted ECFA consists of one representative per Member or Associate Member State, plus the Director-General of CERN. The purpose of the ECFA visits, which are made to each of the Member States in turn, is to assess particle physics and related disciplines in the country concerned and to suggest improvements. The recommendations made are addressed to both the physics community and the government.

Please find enclosed a brief summary of our recommendations together with a more extensive letter in which we elaborate on these points.

- France is a stronghold of particle physics in Europe, and ECFA is impressed by its vibrant and very well-organised particle physics community, broad science programme and many high-quality contributions to front-line research in particle and astroparticle physics.
- CNRS-IN2P3 as a national institute and IRFU at CEA provide a solid basis for fundamental research in particle physics; the large research infrastructure programme *Très Grandes Infrastructures de Recherche* (TGIR) is very suitable for funding large-scale science projects.
- Science exploitation would benefit from the involvement of more postdoctoral researchers and PhD students. We recommend making efforts to better define funding lines for postdoctoral positions and increasing the number of PhD students in fundamental science at universities.
- A particular strength of the French particle physics community is its strong involvement in research and development projects on particle accelerators, detectors and computing. These areas complement the core research fields and foster innovative contributions and potentially important spin-offs for society.
- The high level of support for the engineering and technical side is a key asset for maintaining the strong technical contributions in the above-mentioned areas as well as in planned detector upgrade projects and new future facilities.

- We highly appreciate the strong support of IN2P3 and IRFU for CERN as their main partner laboratory, and their strong support for a possible Future Circular Collider (FCC) as CERN's future facility.

In conclusion, ECFA is very impressed with the high quality of the activities of the French particle physics community and warmly acknowledges the government's ongoing support for those activities.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Karl Jakobs in black ink.

Karl Jakobs
Chair of ECFA