

Statement of the Commission of Particle Physics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

We are shocked to learn that Austria intends to withdraw its membership of CERN, the world's leading laboratory for particle physics. Such an act would not only send an extremely strong negative signal to physicists in Austria, but also to fundamental research in general in the European Community.

The experiments to be carried out at the LHC at CERN will very significantly advance our understanding of the fundamental laws governing the world we are living in. Austria has been during the past 50 years member of CERN and to leave just before potentially world class discoveries are made there, will seriously hurt the participating Austrian community. We lend our full support to our Austrian colleagues and friends with whom we have close scientific contacts.

We urge the Austrian government to reconsider the decision to discontinue its membership in CERN. We sincerely hope that Austria will remain an active participant in this worldwide research community, instead of delivering a blow to international research.

14-05-2009, Budapest

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