



SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DE PHYSIQUE

Division Champs et Particules

Bundesminister Dr Johannes Hahn
Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung
Minoritenplatz 5
A-1014 Vienna, Austria

18 May 2009

Dear Bundesminister Dr Johannes Hahn,

The French physics community has learned with great surprise, shock and sorrow the proposition of the Austrian government to resign from CERN membership. Such a decision would be so detrimental to our Austrian colleagues and to our long time collaboration with them that we urge you to reconsider this unfortunate proposal.

Indeed, it is through our joint CERN membership that we have woven strong links between the French and Austrian HEP communities with common participation to a very large number of extremely successful projects, ALICE and CMS, two of the very large LHC experiments being the most recent and spectacular examples. It is really hard to understand why you would like to drop out of CERN at the very moment where the tremendous efforts of the Austrian and worldwide community are going to pay off with the huge discovery potential of the LHC project within reach. Austria is today a strong player in the European HEP landscape with great leaders such as C. Fabjan or F. Pauss, with worldwide recognized events such as the Vienna Conference on Instrumentation, with very solid contributions and participation to the LHC experiments. Moreover, CERN is a place of excellence for the training of students who, later, will take high level positions in academics or in industry. All these assets would be irremediably damaged if you were to leave CERN.

We therefore hope that you will be able to reconsider this decision and we are looking forward to a continuing strong collaboration with our Austrian HEP colleagues

Yours respectfully

Gérard Sajot, LPSC Grenoble
Chairman of the HEP division of the French Physical Society

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