

Message from the President of Council



“CERN has succeeded in the goal of bringing European countries together in peaceful co-operation.”

CERN's 60th anniversary, celebrating six decades of science for peace, was a major highlight of 2014 for CERN and its Member States represented in CERN Council. The year had a fitting start with the official ceremony to raise the Israeli flag outside CERN for the first time, following completion of the final formalities for Israel's accession as the 21st Member State.

Over the following months, many anniversary events took place, in addition to the main celebration on 29 September. In particular, Council delegates took an active role in proposing and organizing events in almost all of the Member States, with nearly 100 external events taking place in 25 countries.

One special event at CERN commemorated a key moment in the history of Council. On 19 September, during a Council week, a symposium was dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the first session of CERN Council, held in October 1954, just one week after the CERN Convention entered into force. At the symposium, we heard speakers representing various categories of personnel and users of CERN give their own perspectives on what Council means to them.

A key activity for Council during the year concerned the selection and appointment of the next Director-General. The Search Committee, set up at the session in March, pre-selected three excellent candidates. In November, Council converged on one of these, Fabiola Gianotti, and gave formal and unanimous approval for her election as next Director-General in December. She will start her mandate at the beginning of 2016.

Another important topic on Council's agenda in 2014 concerned the CERN Pension Fund, whose funding situation led to extensive discussions. Their main aim was to enhance Council's understanding of the actuarial situation of the Fund

and to compare its scheme with those in other international organizations.

Finally, Council approved various steps for more countries to become Member States or Associate Member States, so we can expect CERN to continue to grow in the future. Over the past 60 years, in addition to its primary mission of producing first-class scientific results, CERN has succeeded in the goal of bringing European countries together in peaceful co-operation. I sincerely believe that this collaborative model of CERN will continue to inspire people around the world for years to come.

Agnieszka Zalewska

Agnieszka Zalewska

Message from the Director-General



“The founders’ ideals continue to drive our work at CERN.”

CERN officially came into being on 29 September 1954, established through a Convention that, in rather formal language, summarized the dreams of the founders. It speaks not only of the construction of accelerators, experiments and infrastructure, but also of international co-operation in research, the promotion of contacts between scientists, the training of scientists, and dissemination of knowledge across borders.

The visionary scientists and diplomats who had worked together to set up CERN realized that by combining forces beyond national borders and boundaries, Europe can play a role in education and in frontier science. Over the past 60 years, CERN has amply fulfilled these dreams, building intellectual bridges, for example, between East and West, even in ‘icy’ times. Now it is time to cross continental boundaries, and 2014 saw the first steps in this direction — from the raising of the Israeli flag at CERN in January, to the signing in December of a document to admit Pakistan to Associate Membership.

The founders’ ideals continue to drive our work at CERN 60 years later. In particular, we are keen to ensure that those who shape the future fully appreciate the essential role that science must play. To this end, in 2014 we established a foundation to support the CERN & Society programme, so that CERN’s expertise and technology can benefit society to the full. One example of the initiatives that can be funded this way is the ‘Beamline for Schools’ project that extended CERN’s broad portfolio of educational activities by allowing schools to propose experiments for CERN, exactly as teams of physicists do. Also following along the lines of the Convention, the year saw CERN extend its pursuit of openness, through the start of the SCOAP³ Open Access initiative and the first open release of data from the experiments at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

For many people at CERN and elsewhere, the first-ever long shutdown of the accelerator complex, LS1, involved a significant amount of work. During the year, it reached a positive conclusion, as one by one, the restart of the warm accelerators progressed smoothly, with research getting under way at all of the facilities they supply. At the same time there was excellent progress in preparing the LHC for the start of Run 2 in 2015. Many thanks go to all of those, not only at CERN, but also from other laboratories and institutes, who contributed to such a safe and successful LS1.

Meanwhile, there has been no shutdown for the analysis work, leading to many new precise measurements by the LHC experiments and outstanding results from experiments at other parts of the complex. Run 2 will see the LHC operate at almost double the collision energy of Run 1, and with this new energy level, CERN’s flagship machine will open new horizons for physics and for future discoveries. It is certain that we are all looking forward to seeing what nature has in store for us.

Lastly, I look forward to working with Fabiola Gianotti during 2015, to ensure a smooth transition when she becomes the next Director-General in 2016.

Rolf Heuer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Heuer', written in a cursive style.