

President's summary of decisions
reported to the December 2015 Open Session of the Council

Here is my report on the decisions taken by the Council since the last Open Session in June 2015.

Since June, the Council has decided to conclude a number of International Cooperation Agreements, one with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), another with the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO) and a third with Palestine concerning scientific and technical cooperation in high-energy-physics.

On financial matters, in September the Council decided to approve a one-off rebate of 60 MCHF on the 2015 Member State contributions, distributed proportionally among all the Member States, in order to mitigate the impact of the appreciation of the Swiss franc at the start of the year. It also decided, in September, to approve the Medium-Term Plan for the years 2016-2020 together with the Draft Budget for 2016 in 2015 prices. At its Restricted Session yesterday, it approved an overall cost-variation index of -1.01% and 0% indexation of Member State contributions and took note of the Final 2016 Budget in 2016 prices.

In September, the Council authorised the Management to derogate from the standard procurement framework applicable at CERN as far as required for the Organization's participation in certain EU-funded projects under the Horizon 2020 framework programme. It also approved an amendment to Article 9 of the CERN Procurement Rules concerning requirements for purchasing without competitive tendering.

.At its Closed Session in September, the Council approved the organisational structure proposed by the Director-General Designate, Dr Fabiola Gianotti, together with all her senior management appointments, whose names she communicated to the staff in an e-mail on Friday 4th December. At that same Closed Session in September, the Council elected Professor Sijbrand De Jong from the Netherlands as the new President of Council for a first period of one year, starting on 1 January 2016, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Sijbrand every success in this challenging position.

At its Closed Session yesterday, the Council elected Professor E. Rabinovici Vice-President of the Council for a first period of one year as of 1 January 2016, it re-elected Ms Charlotte Jamieson Chair of the Finance Committee for a third period of one year, and Mr O.

Malmberg as the Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee for a first period of one year also from 1 January 2016.

Concerning the Scientific Policy Committee, Professor Tatsuya Nakada was reappointed Chair for a third and final year as of 1st January 2016 and

- Professor Laura Baudis of the University of Zürich
- Professor Reinhard Brinkmann of DESY and
- Professor Yosef Nir from the Weizmann Institute of Science

were appointed new members for three years. Professor Krzysztof Redlich of the University of Wrocław was reappointed member of the SPC for a second period of three years. The Council also appointed Mr Elie Mersel from the Israel State Comptroller's Office as expert member of SACA for a period of three years with effect from 1 January 2016.

Yesterday, the Council also approved a number of technical amendments to the procedure for selecting the next Director-General.

Finally, at its Restricted Session yesterday, the Council decided to approve the package of measures proposed by the Management in the framework of the 2015 five-yearly review of the financial and social conditions of the members of the personnel, bringing to a fruitful conclusion two years of hard work by the CERN Management - and in particular the HR Department - and the members of the Tripartite Employment Conditions Forum "TREF", which brings together representatives of the Member States, the Management and the Staff Association. On behalf of the Council, I would like to renew our thanks to everyone who has been involved in this process over the past two years for bringing together a balanced package that should generate savings in the long run and will certainly enhance the geographical and social diversity of the CERN personnel in the short and medium terms.