

Report by the FC Chair to the Open Council December 2020

The Finance Committee met by videoconference on 23 September and 10 December. All Member States and Associate Member States were represented on each occasion.

The Committee discussed a variety of topics (Audit Committee reports, Policy on Management of the Intellectual Policy, Pension Fund matters, reports on the status of CERN Research Infrastructures, site maintenance and others) and made positive recommendations to the Council on all the financial matters reported by the President under the previous item.

On both occasions, the Director-General gave updates on CERN's response to the COVID-19 outbreak and was congratulated by the Committee for the Management's efficient handling of the unprecedented situation, and the personnel was commended for its observance of the health and safety measures put in place to prevent the spread of infection at CERN.

- 2020 contributions and cash position

Thursday, the Committee was pleased to note that 99.5% of this year's contributions have been received, compared with 99.7% and 99.8% at the same point in 2019 and 2018. Thanks to this, no short-term commercial bank loans or overdrafts will be required in 2020.

The Committee thanked MS and AMS for this strong support to the Organization even in this difficult year.

- Status of the Science Gateway project

The Director-General reported on the status of the Science Gateway project, highlighting the recent start-up of building work, the evolution of costs and funding, new donations secured for the construction and content, and the finalisation of the exhibition and content.

- External Review Committee on FHR – update on implementation

Yesterday the Committee was pleased to hear an update from Dr Steinacher on the status of implementation of the recommendations from the 2016-2017 external review of financial and human resources and the resulting benefits and cost savings.

- Contract adjudications

At its two meetings, the Committee approved a total of 23 award-of-contract proposals, including three for the Science Gateway, one for a new computing centre on the Prévessin site, and the contract for the repatriation to Russia of the depleted uranium from the L3 calorimeter.

Thank You!

