

5<sup>th</sup> June 2000

Subject : Physics on Stage – Information to National Steering Committees after the ISC meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2000.

Dear Members of the National Committees,

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of May the International Steering Committee met at ESO, in Garching, near Munich.

We are very pleased with the intensity of the national activities that have been initiated by you and which are now taking place in 22 countries. Nearly all of you have provided national plans and established corresponding homepages that can be linked to the central Physics on Stage home page. Already now, there is an overwhelming number of enthusiastic people participating.

Enclosed you will find the programme for the November festival at CERN . The programme is provisional only, as we are adjusting it according to suggestions and wishes from many of you. Furthermore, as the national activities develop fully, new ideas are presented, which we would like to include in the programme, in order to make this unique festival even better. Whilst changes are therefore still possible, we would like to draw your attention to this provisional programme, hoping that it will help you to have a more concrete idea about the way the final Physics on Stage festival is structured, and that it will allow you to identify the best contributions from your country and thus help securing the success of the festival.

As a result of the appraisal of the proposals submitted so far, there are **four different categories of activities** in the programme, for each of which we invite you to forward a contribution.

**The first** category concerns the **Special Performances**. Special Performances are limited to a maximum of 10. These performances are fully staged, theatrical performances including some drama and are aimed to visualize physics in the theater medium. The ten performances will be selected out of proposals that come from you. So far, we received some 23 proposals, out of which at least 8 may be considered for staging as a theater “play”. However, we do expect more proposals, as some countries have not yet forwarded their ideas for this category. **The deadline for submission of special performances has been extended until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000.**

As mentioned earlier, we may provide financial support of up to 10kEURO to realize each of the selected on-stage performance. Therefore, the International Steering Committee kindly asks you to send with your proposals a budget explaining how the 10kEURO would be used to set up the special performance you propose.

**The second** category consists of the contribution to **the plenary sessions** of the programme. Sufficient plenary sessions are scheduled to allow for 10-15 special presentations/demonstrations that are appropriate to be presented to all participants. We have currently received 6 proposals that combine lectures and demonstrations in interesting ways. We are convinced that more will follow. We stress that if you intend to include special presentations in the plenary sessions, you must apply for the plenary opportunities and indicate to us in due time the requirements that you might have concerning stage size, lighting, sound, build-up and preparation time and time of the presentation itself (typically 30 minutes) etc.

Please note for those national plans that include activities just before the Geneva Festival (i.e. in September or October) it is advisable to forward already now your application for a slot in the plenary program pending the final selection of highly exciting physics presentation, such that we can include your requirements into the festival's program. Obviously we will consider the plenary presenters as part of the countries participation quota.

Although no special funding has been foreseen<sup>1</sup> for supporting some plenary presentations, the International Steering Committee will consider special requests for support on the basis of available funds for extraordinary and added value requirements. These requests will be assessed on a case by case basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Funded are travel, accommodation and 10 special performances (max 10 kEURO per performance)

**The third** category consists of the fair. Adjacent to the lunch canteen, the fair area, including a coffee lounge, will provide ample space for national booths. This fair gives the opportunity for each country to promote various materials, small demonstrations and teaching techniques. Sufficient time slots are foreseen in the program to allow for intensive interaction between the participants and those presenting the national contributions. We have allocated one booth for each country as a start, but we do expect you to indicate further requirements to us.

**The fourth** category is the workshops. Several workshops with a focus on specific themes will be held and organized in small groups of typically 10-15 participants. The plan is to stimulate the various discussions in a structured way, so that at the end of the festival the results can be grouped and presented in a set of conclusions and recommendations. We welcome proposals for themes for these workshops. We list some suggestions below.

- Physics and the environment
- Physics and wealth creation
- Physics and society
- Physics and medicine

Another theme category might be on specific topics and how they might be incorporated into the curriculum:

- Particle physics
- New materials
- Life in the universe

Another theme category might be specifically pedagogical:

- How to promote the teaching of science at the primary level
- How to make physics teaching fun
- What place should the history of physics have in education
- How teaching in universities should change in the light of changes in school education
- The role of the computer and the internet in physics education
- What contribution could CERN, ESO and ESA make to physics education in Europe

A joint programme by the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Southern Observatory (ESO)  
for the European Week for Science and Technology 2000

# PHYSICS ON STAGE

To summarize, we expect you to inform us about:

- 1) Nominations for additional proposals for **Special Performances** to be selected by the International Steering Committee (Deadline 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000)
- 2) Proposals and requirements for **Plenary Sessions**, due end July.
- 3) Requirements for the fair booth space and equipment.
- 4) Suggestions for themes for the workshops.

Yours Sincerely,

The International Steering Committee

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