*Projekts*

**President of CERN Council**

For information:

**Prof. Fabiola Gianotti**

**Director-General of CERN**

Application of the Republic of Latvia for the Associate Member State of CERN

Dear Dr Ursula Bassler,

Following previous exchanges between the Republic of Latvia and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and its Council, with this letter the Government of the Republic of Latvia, would like to submit the application to become an Associate Member State of CERN.

We are pleased to note that Latvia-CERN cooperation has reached its momentum and continues to successfully evolve. For more than two decades, Latvian scientists have developed strong direct relations with CERN and are participating in a variety of CERN programs, projects and collaborations. Over the years the scope, depth and variety of our mutual collaboration has deepened and currently covers a multitude of areas. There is no doubt that our membership will bring mutual advantages to Latvia and CERN as well as the High Energy Physics community at large.

Through relevant Governmental decisions, policy actions and budgetary measures, Latvia has demonstrated its clear political commitment to foster collaboration with CERN, importantly, also in the long-term perspective. In particular, strategic science policy actions were taken to ensure capacity building and the development of a High Energy Physics Community in Latvia and the Baltic States. For instance, the Centre of High Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies was established and yields very satisfactory results, which are recognized by all parties involved.

Furthermore, there are several important international and institutional Agreements in place between Latvia and CERN. This, in turn, enhanced Latvian participation and contribution to major CERN related scientific and technological projects, such as the CMS experiment, ISOLDE - LIEBE Collaboration, Cristal Clear Collaboration, Future Circular Collider study and CERN managed Horizon 2020 projects.

We are pleased to note that Latvia is actively participating in a multitude of CERN related education and outreach activities at CERN and in Latvia.

As an EU Member State Latvia has a mature scientific community as well as advanced industrial capabilities that shall ensure appropriate engagement with CERN.

At transnational level the CERN Baltic Group is coordinating CERN related activities among eight research institutions of the Baltic States.

In addition, it is important to note that the relevant stakeholders fully support the above-mentioned Government decisions and actions. The Latvian National Contact Point for CERN is directly liaising with the CERN Latvia Stakeholders Group composed of academia, industry and respective Ministry representatives.

The accomplishments mentioned above *inter alia* are outlined in detail within the *Application Questionnaire*, which is enclosed to this letter.

We strongly believe that Latvia’s Associate Membership to CERN will be instrumental to further development of High Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies within the international CERN framework.

We ensure that we undertake to provide the necessary national funding for Latvia's associated participation in CERN, the allocation of which is decided by the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia – the highest decision-making body in the Republic of Latvia according to the national procedure for allocating State budget resources.

Respectfully yours,

Prime Minister Artūrs Krišjānis Kariņš