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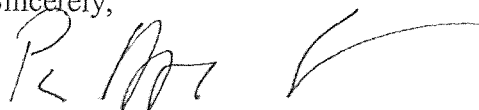
UNITED KINGDOM

Darmstadt, July 4, 2006

Dear Brian,

As we discussed already orally during the recent ECT\* board of directors meeting I would like to bring to your attention that your recent editorial in "Nuclear Physics News" has, for myself and for many of my German Nuclear Physics colleagues, left an impression of a somewhat unbalanced view of the priorities and opportunities for European Nuclear Physics research in the coming decade. While we are of course very happy about the "exciting times for European Nuclear Physics" research you describe in your article in the framework of the FAIR project, and wholeheartedly agree with you assessment that FAIR will be the main European facility for Nuclear Physics research, we are worried that all other facilities mentioned in your editorial are facilities for Nuclear Structure research. As you of course are well aware of, the European Nuclear Physics program is much broader than that. Here we list only a few other programs. Electron scattering facilities at Frascati, Mainz and Bonn are currently very productive and soon will go into new phases of operation, while the COSY facility at Jülich continues to produce interesting data in hadronic physics. NuPEEC's 2004 long range plan lists also the ALICE experiment at the CERN LHC, which will start operations in the Fall of 2007 and currently has more than 400 active European nuclear physicists as members. The hadron and muon physics programs of the CERN COMPASS collaboration will continue to bring exciting new results in the course of the coming 5 years. It is this diversity which is one of the strength of the European Nuclear Physics program and we trust that, under your leadership at the helm of NuPEEC, these opportunities will be further developed around and in conjunction with the FAIR facility.

Sincerely,



Peter Braun-Munzinger  
Chair, KHUK (Committee for Hadron and Nuclear Physics Research in Germany)