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STAFF ASSOCIATION

The information presented in the Staff Association section of the Bulletin is published under the sole responsibility of the CERN Staff Association.

The Association has learned with great pleasure that the Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded yet more laurels to elementary particle physics.

It would like most warmly to congratulate the winners of the 1988 Nobel Prize for Physics, Léon LEDERMANN, Mel SCHWARZ and Jack STEINBERGER.

L'Association a appris avec plaisir que l'Académie des Sciences suédoise a de nouveau distingué la physique des particules élémentaires.

Elle adresse ses plus vives félicitations aux lauréats du prix Nobel de physique 1988, Léon LEDERMANN, Mel SCHWARTZ et Jack STEINBERGER.

ISPRA Meeting(*)

On 24 and 25 September the Staff Association was the guest of the USSPEI Federal Congress (the Confederation of European and International Civil Servants Unions) at Ispra in Italy.

In their contribution, our representatives made the following points :

"CERN's legal framework is different from that of other European organizations. CERN is more isolated at the European level, but suffers from the same pressures such as :

- the Review Committee
- the plan to change recruitment policy
- the recourse to service contracts instead of employing staff members.

We have come to listen and to contribute our ideas and where possible improve rapprochement between the staff of all the European organizations..."

The Association's representatives took part in two working groups. The Trades Union Congress subsequently voted a number of resolutions from which some extracts are given below:

Working Increasing job insecurity (privatization, secondments, Group 1 experts)

"Considering that:

in the last few years, increasing numbers of non-established staff have been employed with the result that established staff numbers are declining... and ... that the policy of privatization in important areas (printing, security, workshops) severely jeopardizes the independence of the European civil service...involving merely a transfer of resources within budgets without achieving real savings...

"Expresses its concern that

privatization may be extended to all categories of personnel... such a development is all the more worrying since there is evidence of a decline in quality.

"Strongly reaffirms

its support of the principle that permanent jobs should be done by permanent staff"

Working Problems for European Research Group 2

"is convinced that

Research and Development will become a strong unifying force within Europe through a sharing of resources

"takes note

of the declaration of the Commission of the European Communities(**)

"that with regard to supranational and international research institutes, we are at the start of a process which is only now getting under way in Europe(...), that steps are being taken to safeguard the future of scientists so that, in the long term, the career of scientists should in respect of these social aspects and for the sake of continuity be independent of a particular location or a particular organization."

"Declares

that job insecurity cannot ensure the effectiveness and productivity of a research establishment as the present situation at JET (Joint European Torus) proves, where large numbers of temporary staff are leaving early to look for more secure jobs thus jeopardizing the completion of the programme.

"Demands

that the Commission define and promote in the near future a "statute for European scientific officers" which... guarantees scientists and technicians working in supranational or international establishments... acquired rights, and continuity of their careers in their countries of origin or in other European bodies, in order to put an end to the growing job insecurity in European research. "

These quotes show that the problems encountered at CERN are no different from those in other European organizations.

The CERN Staff Association endeavours to keep in touch with the world outside and to forge direct links not just with the Member State representatives to CERN but also with our colleagues in national and international organizations.

This enables the Association to defend the interests of CERN staff more effectively and to strengthen research in the European context.

(*) Joint Research Centre of the European Community at ISPRA

(**) Declaration by Vice-president Narjes, reported by EEC members of the working group

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