



**Address by the Minister of Education, Universities and Research,
Stefania Giannini
on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of CERN
European Organization for Nuclear Research
CERN Geneva, 29th September 2014**

**Director General of CERN, Professor Heuer,
President of CERN Council, Professor Zalewska,
Excellencies and Colleagues,**

It is a pleasure and honor to be here celebrating 60 years of CERN.

Today we are not only paying the right tribute to the Organization representing excellence in research and technological innovation at a global level.

Today we are also celebrating the most visionary experiment of international cooperation in the field of science.

CERN is actually the tangible proof that Europe is able to react to crisis and difficulties, by means of its best resources. Knowledge, intelligence, and creativity.

This is exactly what happened sixty years ago, when twelve European countries decided to enhance the state of European research, weakened by the War.

Science diplomacy then was faster and more ambitious than ordinary diplomacy, and the establishment of CERN gave to our researchers a top quality infrastructure to prove their talent, and to our countries an invaluable asset to develop science and knowledge.

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Italy is very proud of its contribution to CERN.



It dates back to the very beginning when Edoardo Amaldi, a great physicist and a true visionary scientist, imagined the creation of an European physics laboratory.

It was after the end of the Second World War and the claim should sound: united in science.

Since that time and continuously, the contribution of Italian science to CERN research has been oriented and finalized to the conception and exploitation of the most important research projects, as well as in the governance of the Organization.

Today results of such activities, culminated in the historical announcement of the discovery of the Higgs Boson, constitute the very building blocks of the European scientific identity.

And Europe today does rely on this science-based project of development and growth of European society.

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Because science and research are needed to face global challenges. Because no economic development can be reached without innovation and no innovation without research.

Politics has the duty to say the truth, in Brussels as well as in each other capital of the European countries.

Maintaining our exemplary societal models and creating new current employment means to invest much more in research and to concentrate on quality investments.

These issues have also been discussed during the meeting of the EU Competitiveness Council, that I had the privilege of chairing last Friday, and they are at the core of the Europe 2020 Strategy review.

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CERN did a great job for the world in its first sixty years.

It should continue to outreach to new Countries in the framework of the enlargement process and to reinforce its central role in future global scientific projects.

Now the entire world is looking at you, and we Member States have the commitment of ensuring a brilliant future to the Organization and its activities.

I wish you Happy birthday and even greater achievements for the next sixty!