

To:

Prof. Massimo Inguscio, President of the National Research Council

Dr. Corrado Spinella, Director of the Department of Physical Sciences and Technologies of Matter

Dr. Lorenzo Avaldi, Director of the Institute for the Structure of Matter and Alternate Representative of the CNR to the European Physical Society

Subject:

Activity Report for the year 2016 within the framework of the European Physical Society.

The National Research Council (CNR) together with other prestigious national and international organizations is an Associate Member (AM) of the European Physical Society (EPS). The scientific activities of EPS are organized through Divisions and Groups. Many of these activities cover research areas in which the CNR is a main player at an international level. The benefits enjoyed by CNR as EPS's Associate Member are:

- Reduction of registration cost to EPS Europhysics Conferences for all CNR employees;
- A fixed number of copies per year of the journal Europhysics News and of reports published by EPS bodies (Action Committees, Divisions, etc.). These copies are addressed to the CNR headquarters or directly to employees designated by the CNR;
- Reduction of subscription cost to the European Journal of Physics (EJP) and to the Europhysics Letters (EPL);
- Reduced rates to publish ads on Europhysics News. On its web page <http://www.eps.org/> the EPS accurately describes the activities carried out in representation and support of the Physics community in Europe. In short, EPS provides an independent input to European science policy, implements physics development programs in Europe, promotes activities to reduce research fragmentation in Europe and cooperates with other international physics societies to support physics and research in physics globally. Among the various EPS's commitments, the following initiatives are of particular importance:
 - a. the promotion of high-level research in physics;
 - b. the organization of "Physics Conferences in Europe" of great scientific value;
 - c. the sponsorship through the "Sponsored Conference Label" program of conferences organized independently of the EPS, but of equally high scientific level and rigorous evaluation procedure of contributions. These conferences are annual or biennial events, for instance "The Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics/Europe and the European Quantum Electronics Conference" (CLEO/Europe-EQEC) and the "International Conference and School on Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion" (IPCCPF), or single events on hot topics such as "Topological States of Matter" and "Higgs Hunting 2016". The complete list of conferences organized or sponsored in 2016 is available online at

http://www.eps.org/events/event_list.asp?show=past&group=&start=&end=&view=&cid=&DGPCrSrt=&DGPCrPg=1.

This type of activities also includes support for International Physics schools, in particular the courses of the "Enrico Fermi" International Summer School of Physics in Varenna and various courses of the Erice International School.

Two other areas on which EPS is heavily involved are teaching and gender equality in physics research.

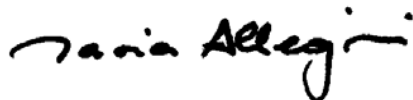
Within the first initiative, the EPS MUSE (More Understanding in Science Education) project offers simple experiments, often not available in common teaching material, to teachers and to the entire "physics education" community. The aim is to help students to better understand physics.

On the second issue, the EPS follows closely the European project H2020-GENERA, of which the CNR together with the INFN is a partner. In particular, the EPS reports on its website the "Gender in Physics Days", three of which were already organized at a national level in The Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland and one at the international level, organized by CERN with ESO and NordForsk. In this context, the activity in 2016 was dedicated to the preparation of the "Gender in Physics Days" scheduled to take place at the end of 2017 in Austria, France, Italy, Poland, Romania and Spain. The aim is to help achieve gender equality in research in physics because despite the fact that the research community in physics is "gender neutral", the presence of women in research in physics remains very low and with more pronounced career problems than for fellow men.

In summary, in 2016 EPS continued its traditional activities including sponsorship of conferences, contributions to schools, awarding of prizes and medals. It also took part in education policies and has overseen international relations in particular with the American Physical Society and with the European Commission. It maintained the editorial commitment for the publication of the journal Europhysics News. The international success of the 2015 "International Year of Light" event in 2016 had very positive results for EPS in general and also for its Associated Members including the CNR that in synergy with the Italian Physical Society was very involved into the organization of this extraordinary event.

Delegates of the AMs, elected among the representatives of the individual AMs, vote for the EPS Council. It would be desirable to have a CNR employee as delegate to the EPS.

02/22/2017

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Allegrini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

(Prof. Maria Allegrini, CNR Representative to the EPS)