

## Closing speech

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Director-General, Rector, Deputy Director-General, Honourable Guests, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The European School of High-Energy Physics of 2007 is coming to an end. You, the participants in this school, have heard 34 lectures designed to give a survey of up-to-date information followed by elucidating discussions. In this connection I would like to express our thanks to the lecturers, discussion leaders, participants, as well as to the organizers of the social programme for the excellent work they have done.

Ladies and Gentlemen, what do the coming years hold? As everything indicates and our school beautifully summarized, we have, with the highest probabilities, everything ahead of us: the best times for particle physics, incredible scientific opportunities, the epoch in which questions concerning the properties and forces governing the ultimate constituents of matter and concerning the development of the Universe, i.e., questions that human beings have asked for millenia, will be, for the most part, answered. Thus our understanding of the Universe with its frontiers of matter, energy, space, and time will be tremendously increased.

Particle physics is Big Science. Therefore, to realize its priority goals like the LHC — the most complex instrument ever constructed — or various new-generation experiments that stretch technology to its limit, or a more complete theory which puts in harmony the theory of gravity with quantum physics, requires the concentration of intellect and of all facilities. Thus in order to reach these priority objectives, we have to mobilize all our personal, financial, technical, and technological means. Since we are not living in an ivory tower, this will surely be a difficult task and will demand hard work and the enthusiastic support of each of us. We should closely co-ordinate our activities with the particle physics community throughout the world, and offer our expertise as well as our technologies to the public. In this connection it is important to realize that the CERN Council will, for the first time in its history, play a double role. It will be fully responsible for the CERN Laboratory and its programme, and also act as the European body responsible for defining the strategy for particle physics. In this second role Council has two objectives: First, that particle physics will become a cornerstone of European scientific strategy, and second, that European particle physics maintains its leading position in the world. This implies global cooperation and the cultivation and preservation of teamwork.

Dear Colleagues, in all the above-mentioned activities I wish you great success and that you work in such a way that the years to come will be years of wisdom and a time of light!

Thank you for your attention.