



PRÍHOVOR PREZIDENTA SR  
pri príležitosti osláv 70. výročia  
založenia CERN-u

Ženeva, 1. 10. 2024

Madam Director General,  
Mr President of the Council,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends of Science,

Seventy years ago, Europe was still recovering from the horrors and scars of war. The world had just witnessed the devastating power of the atomic bomb.

One of humanity's darkest hours.

We stood at a crossroads. In Paris, a group of visionary scientists – men and women – wanted to transform the same power into a force for peace, knowledge, and cooperation. These great minds knew science unites people across borders. That idea became CERN. Today, we stand where once was just a vision. Discovery instead of destruction. One of humanity's brightest hours.

This brilliant institution pushed the boundaries of human knowledge. The discovery of the Higgs boson is just the tip of a pyramid of what the CERN has done for the mankind. We know already so much and yet still so little. The true nature of the universe remains a riddle. We still have more questions than answers. And those too raise new questions.

The future lies ahead and CERN is ready to take the next leap.

The Future Circular Collider project has the potential to be more powerful, more complex and more useful than anything before. If the standing collider was a magnifying glass or the Moon landing, the FCC would be the Webb Space Telescope shooting us straight beyond our galaxy.

Will we find new particles? Unusual forms of matter? Will we prove or disrupt the Standard model? I don't know. Nobody does. But does it really matter? If you think of all the useful technology and innovation that we all use daily thanks to the science made here at CERN – I don't need a promise of the next 'big thing' or some catchy sales-pitch point of reference to believe...

...Believe that wherever the FCC might take us, the journey will certainly bring myriads of great breakthroughs. And that every cent invested will pay off multiple times and benefit us all.

It will bring us closer to a world where everybody has access to and profits from technology – no matter where they are born. The scale is huge, the potential boundless and the challenge? We should accept it. We should embrace it. We should actually run towards it.

Honestly, Europe is rather slow and hesitant, burdened by complicated history, tradition and bureaucracy. But the competitive world around us isn't revolving at a slower pace. But it's also true that when Europe unites, we're capable of incredible things. CERN as the world's undisputed and long-term number one in particle physics is a living proof of that. Let us remember that we've already done this before. Founding CERN seemed unthinkable and yet – here we are. It was our unity and determination that made the vision a reality and achieved things once unimaginable.

Today, we face a similar challenge. But we also have seventy more years of trust, experience, cooperation and success on our side. Do we need the Future Circular Collider? My inner scientist screams yes. Yes, we do. What we need to do now is to make the politicians in us – often limited in thinking by our election terms – become true and mature leaders with long-term vision. And win our voters over for this project.

That is our only job. The much harder one will be handled by our scientists, engineers and businesses. So, don't let us fail them. Together, we can make this happen. Inspire and enrich – both figuratively and literally – many generations to come. Let's continue to explore the unknown. Let's keep seeking the truth. It has always been through science that we are the closest to it.

The FCC is not just CERN's or Europe's project – it's the world's project. And why not show the world that – 70 years on – we can still work together for peace? I would say 'amen' but I'd rather say – let the Higgs boson guide us wisely and thank you.