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To the National Steering Committees
Science on Stage

Culham, October 27th 2010

Dear Sir or Madam,

Science on Stage and its predecessor, Physics on Stage, were launched by the EIROforum, the partnership of Europe's seven intergovernmental research organisations, and co-funded by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Programme. The purpose of the activity was to foster innovative science teaching, including interdisciplinary projects between physics, chemistry and biology and by 'injecting' contemporary science into the process to make science teaching better and more relevant to young people. As a welcome by-product, Science on Stage has helped create an active European community of science teachers.

The main instrument for this was a recurrent European Science Teaching Festival that highlighted new and promising initiatives and offered a place for exchange among some of Europe's most dedicated science teachers, curriculum developers and others with an interest in this topic as well as fresh exposure to state-of-the-art science. Participants were selected via national competitions, science fairs and festivals.

The first European Festival occurred in the year 2000, with five Festivals – each with 4-500 teachers from all over Europe, but also with overseas participation – being organised by the EIROforum. However, the Festival is now an independent entity that must finance itself through sponsorships.

In October 2009, representatives from 18 European countries therefore established Science on Stage Europe. Under its aegis, the national Science on Stage activities continue and the national organisers compete to host the European Festival every two years.

The next Festival is scheduled to take place in April 2011 in Copenhagen, with financial support from the Danish Ministry of Education.

EIROforum is pleased to note the strong echo that the Science on Stage Festivals have generated in the science teaching community and stresses the need to continue to explore all avenues to improve the quality and attractiveness of science teaching in Europe and thus contribute to strengthening the interest and understanding for science and technology among young people on our Continent. We therefore welcome any support that can be given to this important activity in the future. With this help, teachers in your country can exchange ideas with teachers from across Europe, and share them with colleagues at home – sending ripples of inspiration across Europe.

Yours faithfully,

Francesco Romanelli
Chairman of the EIROforum