



European Cooperation  
in Science and Technology

Liber Amicorum

Professor Dr Francesco Fedi

Dear Francesco,

This photobook is a  
small token of  
appreciation from the  
COST community!



# FOREWORD

**D**ear members of the COST community,

**M**y Presidency of the COST Committee of Senior Officials which covered the entire period from the latest COST Ministerial Conference in Dubrovnik in 2003 to the COST Ministerial Conference in Spain in 2010 will end on 21 June 2010 and I wish to say good bye to all of you.

**I**t is certainly very satisfactory to note how COST has improved since 2003. Somebody called this six year period the "renaissance" of COST. From 180 COST Actions in 2003 to the more than 280 Actions of today. From the 70 Institutions from non-COST countries participating in COST Actions to the more than 350 Institutions in 2010. From a contribution to COST of 50-80 M€ for the four years of FP6 to the contribution of 210-250 M€ for the seven years of FP7. From 2003 when somebody wanted to give "an honourable funeral " to COST to the present situation in which nobody could dispute that COST is one of the most effective instrument of the European Research Area. From the strong criticism of the "speaking notes" of a representative

of the European Commission in 2003 to the "chorus of praises" for COST – as it was reported in the press - during the COST exhibition in the European Parliament in 2006 with Commissioner Potocnick and Professor Buzek or during my presentation of COST to the EU Research Working Party in 2009.

**F**or all this, my deep gratitude to all CSO members, to the members and Chairs of the COST Domain Committees and to the participants in COST Actions, the real "raison d'être" of COST. My gratitude to Professor Klaus Gretschnann, Director General of the General Secretariat of the EU Council, for his constant support and to the members of the COST Secretariat for their always loyal, competent and efficient support. My gratitude to the members of the COST Office and in particular to its Director and to the representatives of the European Commission.

“If COST did not exist it would be necessary to invent it”. This was the result of a survey in

the European scientific community. COST was certainly extremely important for my scientific career and I understand that this is true for all the young scientists of the COST community. If COST will continue to receive the same high number of proposals for new COST Actions and if the same high number of Institutions of non-COST countries will continue to participate in COST Actions then COST should not have any problem for its future. An extremely efficient mechanism under the direct control of the COST Member States to contribute to decrease the fragmentation of investments in research in Europe coordinating bottom-up initiatives and to open the European Research Area to a global collaboration.

“Parting is such a sweet sorrow”. This beautiful oxymoron that Shakespeare used for Romeo and Juliet and that combines contradictory ideas of pleasure and pain reflects well my state of mind. “Sorrow” since this concludes my “first” forty years of association with COST. I started in 1970 as Chair of two consecutive COST Actions,

then as Chair of the COST Scientific Committee Telecommunications and Information Science and finally as President of the COST Committee of Senior Officials. “Sweet” since I am sure that my successor and you all will keep up the outstanding traditions of COST. My best wishes to the new COST CSO President Ms Angeles Rodriguez Pena and my heartiest congratulations to her; for the first time after 40 years the COST President will be a woman!



*Professor Dr Ing Francesco Fedi  
President COST Committee of Senior  
Officials*



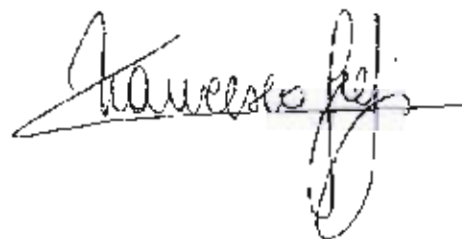
“Errare humanum est, sed perseverare diabolicum”. COST made its first fatal mistake when I was elected President of the COST CSO in 2004 and persisted when confirmed me as President of the COST CSO in 2007. Now that finally after 40 years COST will acquire its legal status with the COST Office Association - a non profit making Association under the Belgian law - COST made its third fatal mistake electing me as President of its General Assembly and of its Administrative Board.

Consequently this is not really a farewell but simply a good bye since it appears that COST will not get rid of me completely.

Best wishes to all of you, keep up the good work and....long life to COST!

Yours sincerely,

Professor Dr Ing Francesco Fedi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francesco Fedi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Professor Francesco Fedi was elected President of the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) in 2004 and re-elected for another three-year term in 2007. His COST CSO Presidency ends on 21 June 2010. On 8 June 2010 he was elected President of the General Assembly and of the Administrative Board of the COST Office Association.*

My dear President,  
For me you are COST. And much more.  
For me you are a wise man – a leader.  
And a personality – strong, committed and vain.  
You are a strong man and you are a good and very sensitive man.

I remember when you received a fraudulent mail in the name of Biljana asking for money because the author claimed to be stranded somewhere and you instinctively wanted to help.

You are an honest man.  
You live the values you present.  
The most difficult task for me was to bring to your attention  
the fact that not all share these virtues.

It is a pleasure to discuss with you – or better to interrupt your reasoning by making a suggestion.

I learned a lot from you – in many dimensions: about humanity, about honesty, about ignorance,  
about determination and fate.

All this did make it an experience, or better, a one chance in a lifetime opportunity to work with you.  
I have met some impressive personalities in my life. You are one of them and I hope for an ongoing  
close relationship, wherever the winds might blow me.

All the best and a long life to COST!

Alfonso





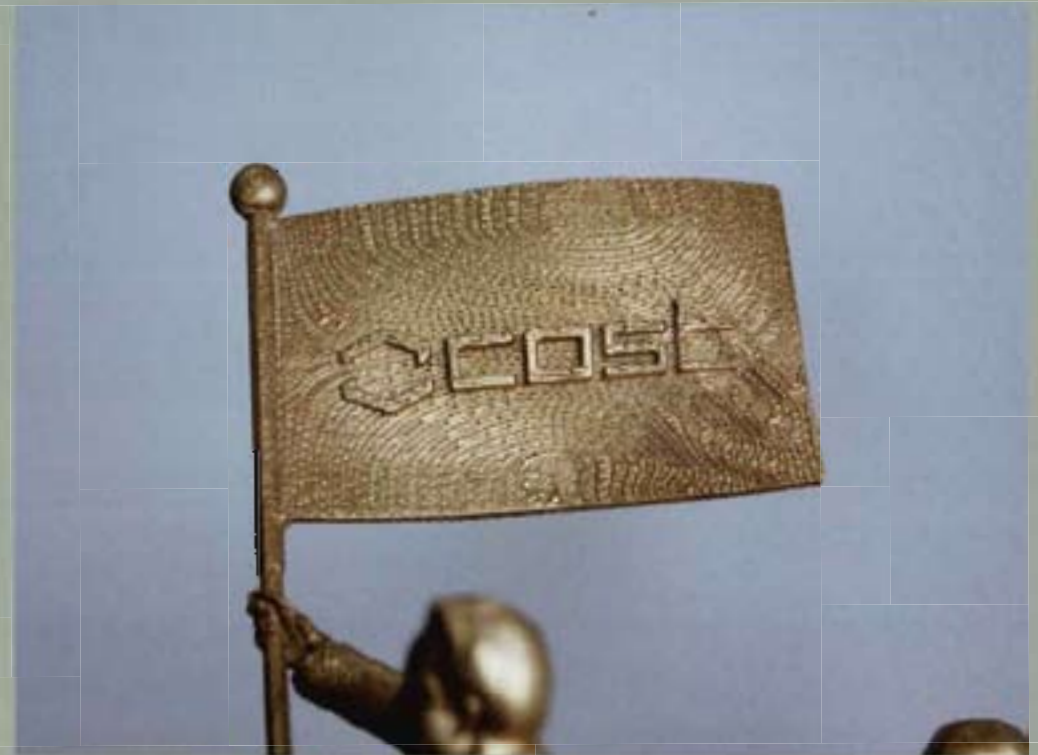
Dear Francesco,

Your presence and your light guidance as COST President was relevant for me since I became the National Coordinator for Italy. You were a reliable friend sharing your knowledge and experience on COST.

So my gratitude as a member of the COST Committee of Senior Officials and my appreciation for all the prestige you gave to our Country and to the Italian scientific community.

The "chorus of praises" for you during the latest COST Ministerial Conference in Palma de Mallorca was a sign of the general recognition of the success of your Presidency. When you inherited COST, it was seriously risking to undergo "an honourable funeral".

During the six years of your Presidency the "renaissance" of COST took place and in the present situation nobody could dispute that COST is one of the most effective Instrument of the European Research Area. From 180 COST Actions in 2003 to the more than 280 Actions of today.



From the 70 Institutions from non-COST countries participating in COST Actions to the more than 350 Institutions in 2010. From a contribution to COST of 50-80 MEUR for the four years of FP6 to the contribution of 210-250 MEUR for the seven years of FP7.

From the strong criticism of the "speaking rates" of a representative of the European Commission in 2003 to the recognised COST success during the COST exhibition in the European Parliament in 2006.

The entire community is going to miss your strength and your style. But luckily yours is not a farewell but simply a good bye. Italy can be proud of your new position as President of the General Assembly and of the Administrative Board of the COST Office Association.

My best hearty wishes of good luck for your new challenge, looking forward for continuing a dialogue that has never ceased during the last wuthering years.

Sincerely yours, forever friends

Maria Uccellatore, Italian COST National Coordinator



Sometimes, life is fair enough to give you the opportunity of meeting outstanding people both professionally and personally.

This is your case, Francesco!

Not only have you brought to COST a new phase, but you have also shown your leadership and a great love for science.



Besides that, your affection, care, and sense of humour have made the CSO meetings also gatherings of friends with shared interests and responsibilities. I suppose you will enjoy your retirement of the Presidency's responsibilities but I and COST count on you for the future.

Angeles





The COSTDay was only one day in Brussels, but with you Francesco, everyday has been a COSTDay, in your devoted mind and in your caring heart.

This is my impression of your two terms as the CSO President.

Actually, my term as CSO member started with your presidency in 2004. Then, COST and Fedi have grown as synonyms for me.

I cannot decide which is more difficult to admit: COST without Fedi or Fedi without COST!  
I believe our minds and hearts will always be together...

Omer

Dear Francesco,  
I have had the chance to interact, follow and collaborate with you for so many years. I have enjoyed, admired and appreciated your dedication, faith and sometimes boldness for the sake of COST and for a better science structure and environment in Europe.  
You have helped to raise the DC Chairs as competent and relevant stakeholders in brainstorming for a better COST and a better ERA. We are very thankful for that. We all will keep memory of you as the white bold knight carrying the COST flag through stormy waters to a steady land.  
All the best for your future adventures  
(I guess you will not stay still, even in Capri), Sylvain







Dear Mr. President,  
Dear Francesco,

We hope these pictures bring back happy memories. We will never forget your kindness and willingness to assist us during Cyprus' first steps in the COST Programme. Most importantly, without your determination and efforts the COST Programme would not have had such a strong position as an instrument promoting scientific and technical research in Europe. We are all really grateful for that. We would like to wish you all the best for your future challenges.

As R. Bach said "Don't be dismayed at goodbyes. A farewell is necessary before we can meet again. And meeting again, after moments of lifetime, is certain for those who are friends".

And please never forget: you have an open invitation to visit Cyprus any time you like... just let us know.

With our very best wishes,

The Cyprus Delegation

Kalypso Sepou

COST National Coordinator

Constantina Makri

Representative of Cyprus in the Committee of Senior  
Officials







Dear Francesco,  
I am saying goodbye to a wonderful COST President!  
For me COST and YOU are ONE,  
both worthwhile for scientists, researchers and others.

I really enjoyed working with the COST family and especially with you. You chaired COST with intelligence, a great sense of humour and the irresistible Italian charm which made it a joy to attend COST meetings with you.

Maestro Francesco, I applaud you!

Kind regards, Winifred de Groot, COST Senior Official and COST delegate until November 2005, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, The Netherlands.

Dear Professor Fedi,

I joined the CSO as the Dutch delegate only a few months ago. I got to know you as the President of the COST CSO, which you chaired with great passion and humor. At the same time serious matters concerning the future of COST were at stake. And I had to learn the jargon fast. I entered the world of abbreviations like COST, the COST-CSO, the JAF, the difference between the COST Office and the CSO Secretariat, the organisation of COST in the member states including the DC members and experts. And of course there were the politically loaded discussions about the establishment of the COST Office Association in Brussels. I admire your energy and your never ending efforts for trying to keep COST safe and sound for the future. I hope that COST will get the future it deserves and that it maintains a strong position in the research landscape. But since this is my goodbye note to you: most of all I would like to thank you for all your work for the sake of COST!

Kind regards, Yvonne Schaap-Koenen, The Netherlands





I first met you in 2003 and my first impression was of a forceful character who was intensely proud of COST and a great defender of its achievements.

Later, as the first Director of the COST Office, I worked closely with you when you became President of COST during a difficult period for the organisation. I quickly came to appreciate your capacity for hard work, your dedication to COST, your broad knowledge of science and technology, history, the arts, politics and the classics (from which you quoted frequently!) but, most of all, your friendship. I count myself lucky to have worked with you, Francesco, as a friend, colleague, polymath but, most of all, a great European.

I wish you and your wife all good wishes for the future, especially in Capri from where, like Tiberius in the Roman Empire, you oversaw the COST family.



I first met you in 2004 soon after I took over as the Chief Executive of ESF and we rapidly established a rapport based on mutual respect and a willingness to work together for the best outcome for Europe's research.

Indeed, as the people responsible for bringing ESF and COST together we met frequently in what rapidly became known as the BAFF Group (Bertil Andersson – Francesco Fedi). You insisted on being the Chair of this group as being the proud possessor of a superb baffo – moustache!!

Later we worked closely together in reforming the COST Committee structure at what went into COST mythology as the famous Sigtuna meeting when we achieved a result that was thought to be an impossibility when we started.

Finally, let me say I always appreciated your openness and honesty and friendship in tackling even the most difficult questions and I look back on the BAFF meetings with fond memories.



Bertil Andersson



Dear Francesco,

Being the CSO President is a full-time job. Sometimes this has meant full-time for the Secretariat as well: you have kept us busy with (more than) daily phone calls and plenty of texts, written with your Latin temperament.

To your disappointment, these colourful texts have so often been turned into a laconic and bureaucratic style "à la Conseil"... But it seems that during these years we managed to create an almost perfect match of the Nordic and Southern styles!

You have always been the first one to give praise and credit to someone you think has deserved that!

We have worked a lot during these years - but also laughed and had a lot of fun.

We will miss you!

And just in case this has skipped your attention: please remember that we are always available for a High Level Consultation Meeting in Capri!

Your "angels" at the COST Secretariat,

Klaus

Laurence, Ulla, Kimmo







Anneli Pauli

Dear Professor Fedi, Dear Francesco,  
It has been a great pleasure cooperating  
with you during your COST presidency.  
We have always been impressed by your  
commitment to COST and your ability to  
promote COST all over Europe - and beyond.  
Certainly, your efforts have been very  
successful.



Robert-Jan Smits



The COST budget has increased substantially from FP6 to FP7 and COST seems to be highly appreciated by researchers in Europe. Also the impacts of COST are seen in research itself as well as in the use of research. On behalf of the European Commission, we would like to thank you for your efforts and wish you all the best for the future.



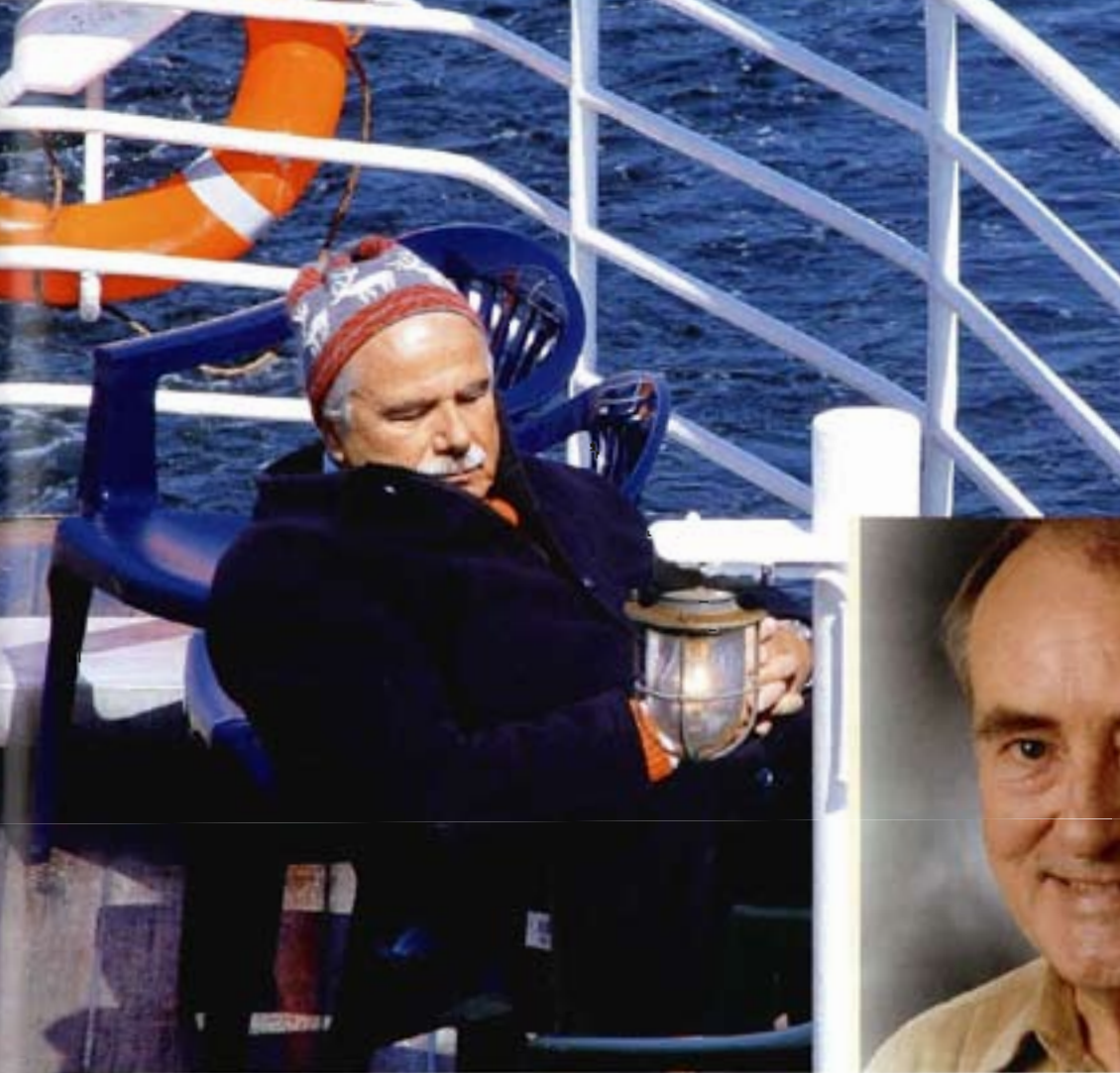
Markku Warras

Jan-Arne Eilertsen



The only thing I wanted to say is that I was lucky to serve your Presidency as Vice President. Thus, I became part of the great changes you introduced to COST. Even if you leave the CSO, your fighting spirit for a better and more visible COST will remain.  
You created the future of COST.



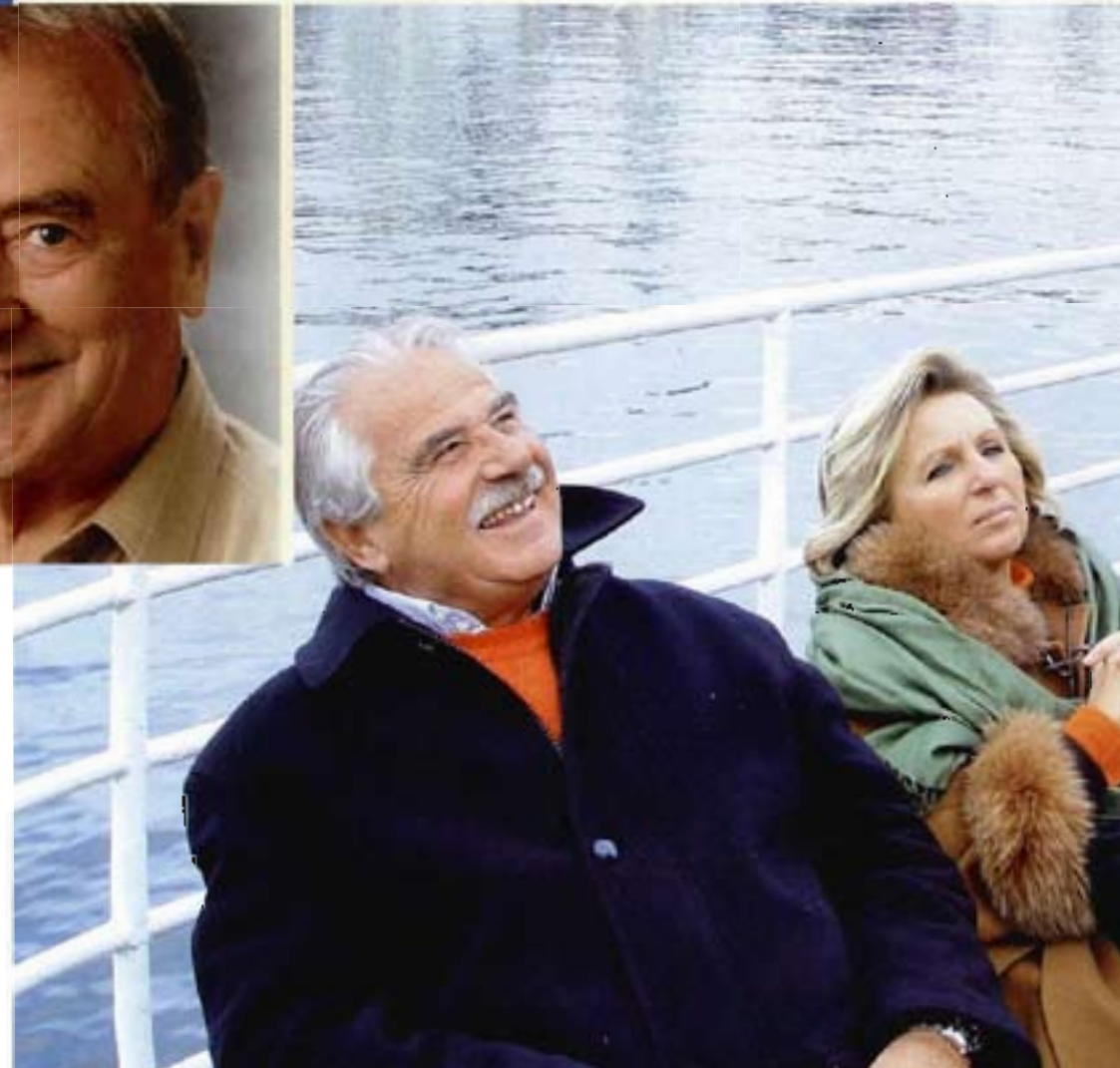


Dear Francesco, I always liked

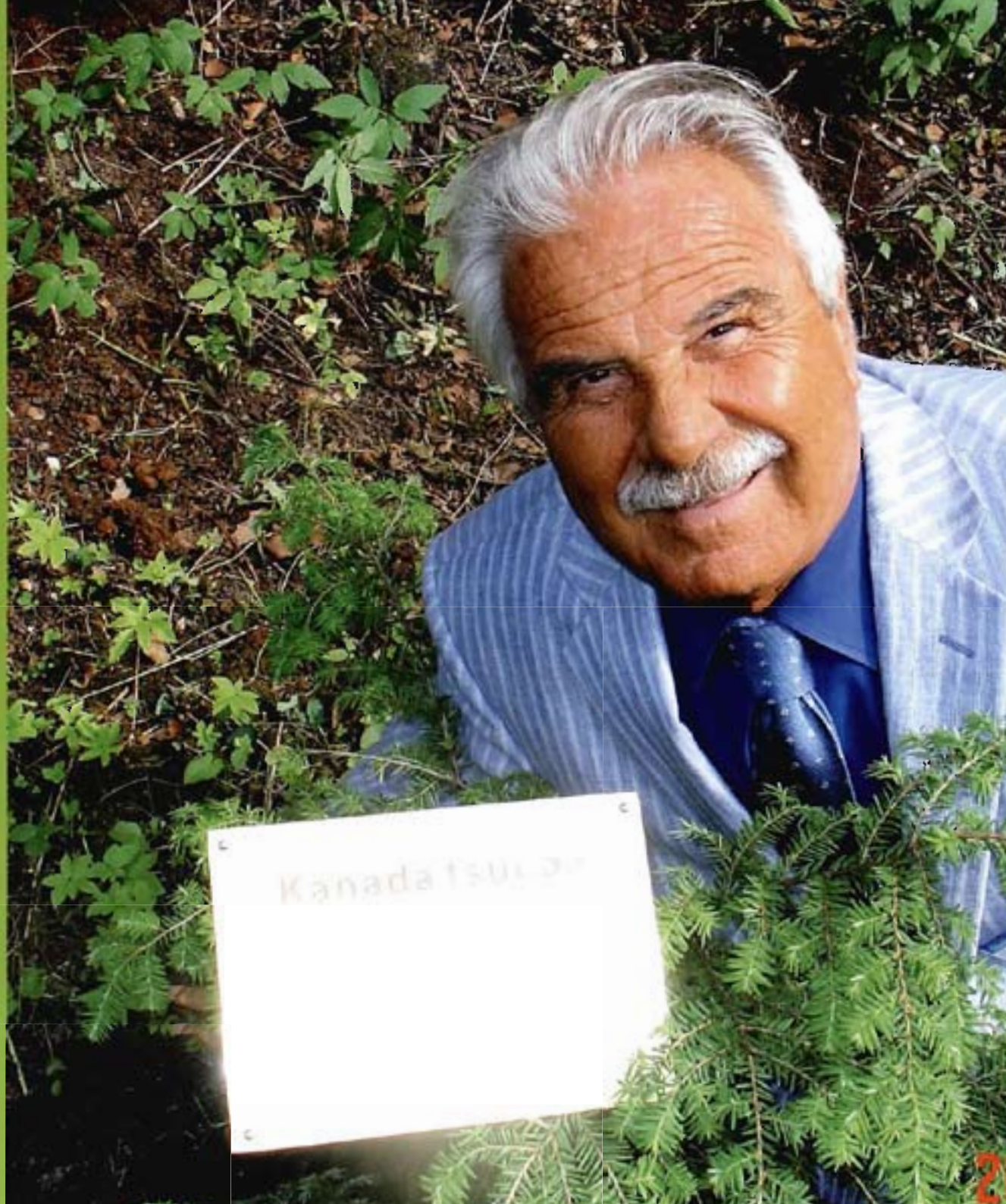


seeing you and working

together. All the best, Gösta







Dear Francesco,  
As chair of DC FPS I just had to pick this picture.  
The Tsuga Canadensis, more commonly known as Eastern Hemlock, exhibits some special features. Among these is its shade tolerance when young, while it needs more sunlight as it gets older. This is of course an excellent strategy for a tree aiming first to reach the canopy and then to extend it and rule for more than 500 years. It has been a pleasure to serve COST under your Presidency, and specifically so the times you invited the DC chairs to involve ourselves in certain tasks or to visit the CSO. I am impressed by the openness and the way you have kept us updated about strategic developments. Like the patient and clever Eastern Hemlock which wins in the long run, I wish you success for all your ongoing and future projects.  
Best wishes, Sjur Baardsen  
Chair DC FPS





The Estonian old people wisdom says that the Man who planted a tree in his life, has not lived in vain. The COST tree has grown steadily. I admire your unflagging, enthusiastic and contagious efficiency, in combination with specific charm, natural in your beautiful country, but so refreshing in our reserved society.

Best, Jille





The first time I met you this quote from  
Groucho Marx came to my mind:  
"Now there's a man with an open mind -  
you can feel the breeze from here!"

Stefan Cairn

Dear Francesco,  
I wish to extend my sincere thanks for all  
your work and dedication to COST.  
During your time as President, COST has  
had an excellent representative both in  
Europe and around the world.

With all the best wishes,

Gorm





With best wishes for the  
future,  
Rita (COST CSO, Ireland)

Rita Ward, COST National Coordinator, Enterprise Ireland;  
Gabi Egartner, COST Office, Brussels; you: Yesmina  
Marlaire, COST Office, Brussels; Dr Martin Grabert, Director,  
COST Office, Brussels

Dr. Martin Lyes, Enterprise Ireland, Divisional Manager  
Technology, Automation & Productivity; you;  
Dr Martin Grabert, Director, COST Office, Brussels







The Norwegian delegation to the CSO wants to thank you for your inspiring leadership, your great efforts to improve the organisation not only on a European but also on an international basis, and your efforts to increase the visibility of COST.





Best regards from Hendrik to an exceptional COST President who has had a decisive impact on the recent developments of COST.



Thanking for the on-time guidance and wishing enjoyable upcoming journeys for the Big Bear!  
We in Finland, Arja, Eija, Eili, Kustaa and Raimo



Dear Francesco,  
many thanks from Luxembourg for your restless efforts for the success of COST.

Long life to you and COST, Carlo



Dear Francesco,

We have cooperated in COST over many  
years  
and in various functions.

This cooperation was interesting and fruitful,  
was sometimes a challenge, is reflected in  
COST guidelines, led to good discussions, has  
influenced my work as COST National  
Coordinator, included cheer- and thoughtful  
moments at COST dinners and was always  
following a red thread – the support of  
European research in the frame of COST.

In one word - It was a pleasure to cooperate.

Thank you for all this and all the best for the  
future.

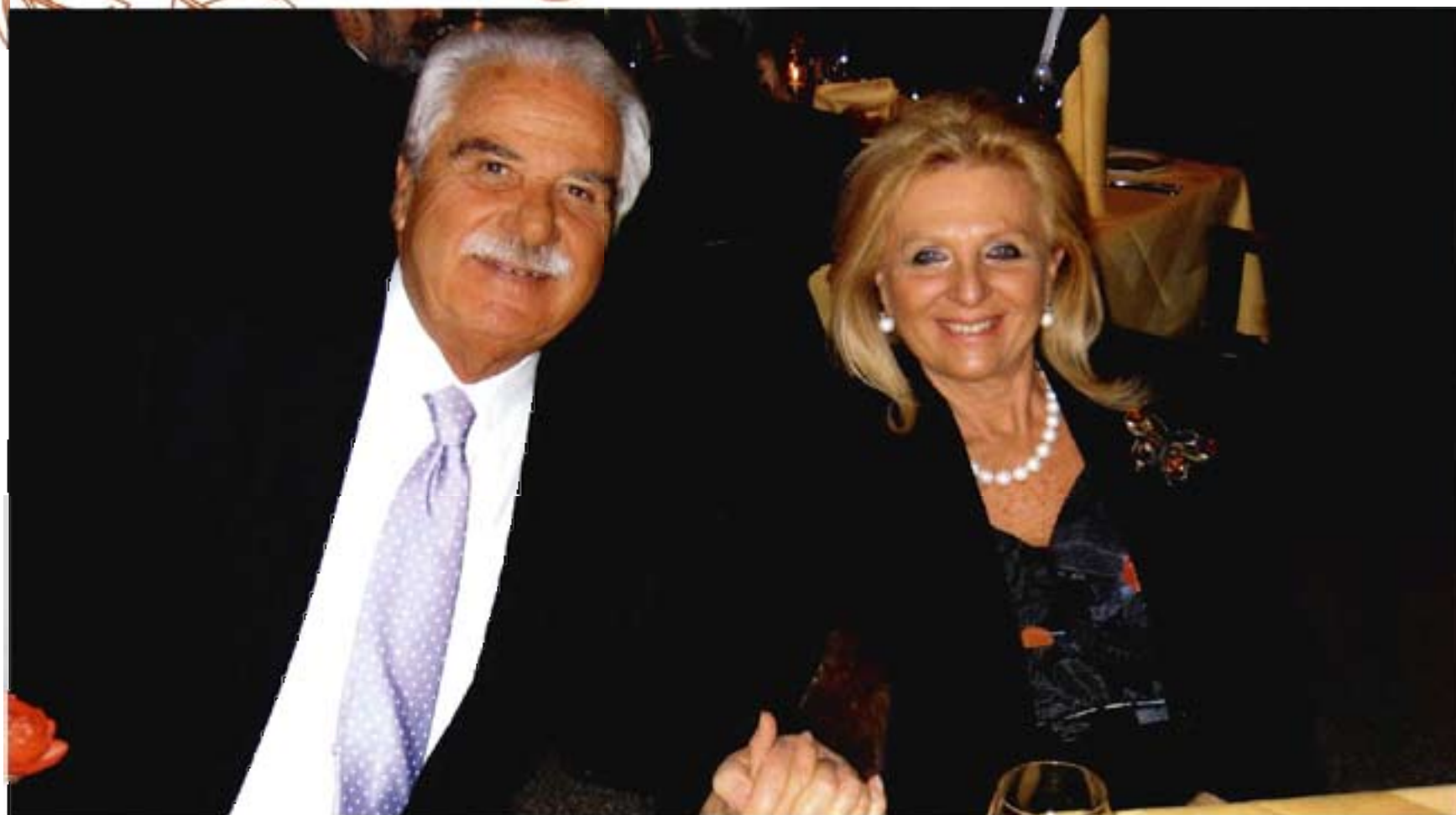


Eva Klaper









Dear Francesco,  
Gratitude and thanks for many years as CSO President, leading COST always with efficiency, competence, enthusiasm and professionalism. Wishing you all the best for the future and – as you used to say – “Long life to COST”.

The German COST Team: Walter Mönig, Klaus Uckel and René Haak from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Marion Wolpers, Julia Kipper-Albertini, Nadja Rohrbach, Margret Mutz and former colleague Ruth Badelberg from the EUREKA/COST Bureau

"Richard the Lionheart"... was another Francesco,  
another Lion... another King fighting for  
a Kingdom of Heaven.

But Il Professore also deserves to be declared Saint,  
like his holy patron San Francesco d'Assisi  
for having shown so much devotion to the others,  
to thousands of scientists.

Your impressive intelligence, extraordinary clear-  
sightedness, rhetoric, gentleman attitude...  
and elegance will remain in the COST family  
memory forever.

COST could not have been developed, represented,  
defended with more panache and determination.  
I am sure your efforts unlocked many doors and  
mentalities - COST owes you its present success and  
future glory and freedom.

I hope you will use the same energy to take care of  
your own future now that I wish you... as Italian as  
your excellent taste, as intense as your  
Mediterranean outbursts, as sweet as your... Lion  
eyes ;) La crème de la crème...it was COST but for  
sure its President too!





 **costco**







Thank you for your  
big efforts to  
develop the COST  
programme, your  
professionalism  
and dedication.  
You did more than  
great!

Congratulations.

We all really  
enjoyed being with  
you for all of these  
years, during the  
work sessions and  
leisure activities.

You have captured  
our hearts as a  
bright, smart and  
lively person.

Wishing you  
opportunities,  
success and - most  
of all - good luck in  
all that you do

Birute





Dear Francesco,

It was more than a great pleasure to work with you at COST. Being a "COST veteran" of all levels of the system -- Action chair, TC member, TC chair, CSO member and finally CSO president -- you combined in-depth knowledge of the COST Actions with a strong dedication to the COST system and the right political foresight to navigate the COST ship through all storms and still waters....but the most important is that you were always on the side of the scientists to guarantee the true great success of COST.

All the best for you in the future.

Dieter, Domain Chair CMST



Dear Professor Fedi,  
On behalf of the DC-ICT, I  
would like to express our  
gratitude for all the  
support, work and  
dedication you have  
given COST and its cause  
and especially for the ICT  
Domain. You have been a  
leader, a mentor, and a  
confidant. Your  
involvement in all  
aspects of the ICT  
Domain as a scientist and  
expert goes without  
saying. I am sure that we  
all agree that your  
contribution to COST will  
be missed. With no  
further ado, we all wish  
you the best for your  
future plans and thank  
you again.

Soulla Louca, Chair, DC-  
ICT, (Cyprus Delegation)





Dear Francesco,  
on behalf of the Serbian delegation,  
we would like to thank you for your  
strong efforts to raise the visibility of  
COST. As you can see from the photo  
we chose, we also appreciated your  
sense of humour.

All the best for the future,  
Biljana





Dear Prof Fedi,

On behalf of the South African Department on Science and Technology, and indeed the broader South African research community, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your efforts to encourage the greater participation of South Africa in COST activities. The signing of the South Africa - COST Reciprocal Agreement during your tenure is an undoubted highlight in the recent past of research collaboration between South Africa and the European Union. Participation in COST is of immense value to South Africa as it greatly enhances the internationalisation of South African research,



affording opportunities for South African researchers to participate in leading global networks. We will spare no effort to repay the trust you have put in us by ensuring successful implementation of the Reciprocal Agreement. Under your leadership, COST not only excelled as one of the foremost instruments for global scientific collaboration, but indeed also played and we are sure will continue to play, a valuable role in promoting international friendship and solidarity.

For these efforts we thank and salute you.

Daan du Toit, Senior S&T Representative to the EU, South African Department of Science and Technology.





Francesco,  
you come from the COST scientific community and have never forgotten it. You have never been afraid to speak up for COST to whomever when you thought it was needed. You have been evangelical about COST beyond Europe, and the reciprocal agreements we now have with New Zealand, South Africa, Australia and Argentina owe much to you.

And you always tried to ensure all points of view get a hearing.

We feel sure you and your legacy to COST will be remembered for many years, and wish you and Sandra good luck with whatever you may now turn your talent to.

To Francesco, we continue to believe in and to develop COST on the basis of the Programme's principles. And COST will have a splendid future, which you helped to create. We continue to share our love for the classics. Please, remember that the term *insitutio claudicans* was found with you in mind.  
*Ad multos annos!*

Raoul Kneucker





Dear Francesco,

On behalf of the Czech COST family I would like to express our and my personal gratitude for everything you did for the success of COST especially in the present very complicated period of COST's life.

We do hope that COST is going to benefit from all your immense efforts; not only the survival of COST as a model of successful scientific cooperation across Europe and throughout the whole world but also for common scientific life.

COST is a wonderful example of the exploration of European diversity to improvement global development of knowledge. It sets an excellent example for other communities outside Europe on how to manage it.

We would like to wish you enough power to your forthcoming professional and personal life.

Milos (NCC Czech Republic), Jaroslav and Josef









Dear Mister President of the CSO,  
My Dear Francesco,  
My Dear Friend,

It happened that when I joined the CSO in May 2004, you had just been elected President. My predecessor, Martine Sohm, had been actively involved in COST evolutions, and you had chosen her as a member of the JAF Group, in the new format of an executive Board to the CSO that you had just designed. But since I was just was hopping onto the vessel, you deemed it more reasonable that I first became accustomed with COST matters before proposing to the CSO my application to JAF, and I joined the core group in June 2006.

And as we became more familiar to each other, trust arose between each other, and we entered in an every day closer collaboration. It happened that times became difficult to COST, vultures were flying around, and, more than often, we shared our worries, our hopes, our visions, and we "cried over each other's shoulders". I am proud that you considered me not only as a friend of COST, but as a friend of yours.

During the dinner on the night before our Ministerial Conference in Palma de Mallorca, I was in charge of offering you a statue featuring the "Four Horse(wo)men of COST", conceived by the personnel of the COST Office, in gratitude to all efforts we deployed over the last 3 years to respond to the numerous challenges linked to the good continuation of COST. The voyage is not over yet, but three companions, Martin, Yesmina, and you, my dear Francesco, have now left the ride.

But anyway, as you often said, COST is a family. And members of a family, even when life happens to set up a distance between them, remain close in their hearts. I will always keep a place for you in my thoughts, and remember all the good times we spent on this venture, forgetting the bad guys, the moments of despair, and highlighting our victories. After all, it was worth it, I would never have expected, joining the CSO, to be granted so many bright and tasteful days. Let me associate Martin, so far away, and Yesmina to this tribute, and so many nice people in the COST fraternity.

Thank you for all,  
All the best to you and Sandra,









COST Ministerial Conference,  
Palma de Mallorca, Spain  
15 June 2010











## THE PAST AND PRESENT OF COST

### 1. COST in brief

COST - "European Cooperation in Science and Technology" - is the longest running and widest European intergovernmental mechanism for co-operation in research.

Established by an exchange of letters in 1969-1970 followed by the Ministerial Conference of 19 European States on 22-23 November 1971, COST currently helps the scientific communities of 35 European countries\* (including all EU Member States and candidate countries) cooperate in common research projects (Actions), supported by national funds.

\* COST member states: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom; COST cooperating state: Israel.

COST is a cornerstone for the development of the European Research Area (ERA) and instrumental in achieving the objectives set by the Lisbon Agenda. It is a unique instrument with a clear role in the ERA which notably provides:

- ▶ a European "exploratorium" of new ideas in the most promising fields of research, thus functioning as a generator of initiatives in the Framework Programmes and as a potential source of industrial applications, for instance in EUREKA;
- ▶ a high-level scientific network able to tackle problems of societal importance;
- ▶ a framework able to ensure scientific excellence in networking European researchers;
- ▶ an effective tool to coordinate nationally funded research activities, encouraging synergy and work sharing and avoiding duplication and gaps, thus allowing a more efficient use of national resources. A "multiplier effect" is achieved: with the funds provided for COST networking a volume of research activities worth about 100 times more;
- ▶ an active partner in the European "neighbourhood" policy towards the scientific communities of the EU's neighboring countries;
- ▶ an asset for the EU RTD policy in its relation to the rest of the world.

The confirmed confidence and enthusiasm in the COST research community, and the support assured from the EU's Framework Programmes, represent an important opportunity for the scientific community on a world basis also in the future.

### 2. COST Characteristics

- ▶ "Bottom up approach" (the initiative of launching a COST Action comes from the European researchers themselves)
  - ▶ "à la carte participation" (only countries interested in the Action participate)
  - ▶ "coordination of research capacity" using the network of national coordinators and Domain Committees
  - ▶ "openness to non-European participation"
  - ▶ "flexible structure" (easy implementation and light management of the research initiatives)
- are the main characteristics of COST. As a precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research COST has a very important role for the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA), anticipating and complementing the activities of the Framework Programmes, constituting a "bridge" towards the scientific communities of emerging countries, increasing the mobility of researchers across Europe and fostering the establishment of scientific excellence. COST is organised in nine domains:
- ▶ Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences
  - ▶ Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies
  - ▶ Earth System Science and Environmental Management
  - ▶ Food and Agriculture
  - ▶ Forests, their Products and Services
  - ▶ Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health
  - ▶ Information and Communication Technologies
  - ▶ Materials, Physics and Nanosciences
  - ▶ Transport and Urban Development

However, COST also supports and encourages "Trans-Domain" activities which do not readily fit in any single Domain. COST contributes to reduce fragmentation in research investments in Europe, and opening the European Research Area to cooperation on a world basis.



### 3. The COST Structure at present

The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) is the main decision-making body and is composed of representatives from all COST Member States. The Domain Committees (DCs) are responsible for particular research domains, and are also made up of representatives of all COST countries. The Management Committees (MCs) - one for each Action - are formed by national experts nominated by the countries participating in the Action, and coordinate the activities of the Action, reporting to the relevant Domain Committee. The CSO secretariat is provided by the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, thus underlining the intergovernmental character of COST. The scientific and administrative Secretariat to the COST Domain Committees and to the COST Actions is provided by the COST Office in Brussels, run by the European Science Foundation (ESF) as the Implementing Agent of COST.

### 4. The COST Actions

"European Concerted Research Actions"- COST Actions - are networks centered around nationally funded research projects in fields that are of interest to at least five COST countries. COST Actions cover basic and pre-competitive research as well as activities of public utility.

Every COST Action has objectives, defined goals and clear deliverables. They achieve results through network building and coordination activities such as meetings, workshops, training schools and short-term scientific missions. COST Actions operate across a wide spectrum of scientific fields, are often multi-disciplinary in nature, and often continue beyond the normal four-year duration of COST funding. Today there are more than 200 ongoing COST Actions and there have been about 500 Actions over the years.

### 5. COST Open Call

A COST Open Call, with two collection dates per year, is used to attract the best proposals for new COST Actions. The call is thematically open and proposals playing a precursor role for other European programmes and/or initiated by early-stage researchers are particularly welcome, as are interdisciplinary proposals not fitting readily into a single Domain.

Proposals are assessed in two stages. The top ranked Preliminary Proposals are invited to submit a Full Proposal, which is peer reviewed according to established assessment criteria. The time between the collection date and the approval of the best Full Proposals is approximately 8 months.

### 6. Scientific Quality Control

The scientific quality control of COST Actions is carried out by the COST Domain Committees assisted by the COST Office, according to the COST "Guidelines for Assessment, Monitoring, Evaluation and Dissemination of Results of COST Actions", and is composed of the following four steps:

- ▶ Assessment of proposals for new Actions
- ▶ Monitoring of Actions in progress: an "Annual Progress Report" is presented by the MC Chair of each Action annually in a meeting with the relevant DC
- ▶ Evaluation of completed Actions
- ▶ Dissemination of results.

### 7. COST Funding

The funds provided by COST are obtained from the European RTD Framework Programmes. The support to COST Actions is less than about 1% of the total value of the research carried out in the Actions. During the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), with funding of around 30 million EUR per year, more than 30.000 European scientists are involved in COST networking, with their projects representing a total value exceeding 2 billion EUR per year.

COST funding covers the coordination costs associated with organising and attending meetings, workshops and conferences; short-term scientific missions; and publications and other dissemination activities. The research activities themselves (staff, infrastructure etc.) are supported through national funds and not by COST.



## 8. COST Results

The scientific importance and relevance of COST results is testified by the thousands of scientific papers published in the most important scientific journals and by the many doctoral degrees obtained by students working in COST Actions. COST results have also contributed to European competitiveness through many contributions to normative and standardisation bodies, the Small Enterprises originating in Europe from COST activities at the frontiers of modern technology, and the many examples of transfer of results to the European industry.

The societal importance of COST results concerning issues arising from pressing societal needs has also to be underlined. The contribution of COST to the ERA is also particularly important; COST is in many instances a precursor of research projects and activities in the Framework Programmes.

## 9. COST contributes to reduce fragmentation of national research efforts in the ERA

The mission of COST is to be a flexible, fast, effective and efficient tool to network and coordinate nationally funded research activities at project level (Actions), bringing motivated scientists together under light strategic guidance and letting them work out their ideas. This is particularly important to contribute to reduce fragmentation of national research efforts in Europe where about 85% of the investments in research are done at a national level and only 15% is managed at the European level.

## 10. COST contributes to increase cooperation on a world basis

One of the key features of COST is its openness towards the rest of the world on the basis of mutual benefit. Institutions from non-COST countries can join individual COST Actions on a case-by-case basis, once the mutual benefit has been ascertained, without the need for any formal arrangements at government or agency level. With such easy accessibility and light and fast procedures, COST has thus always been a "bridge" for the scientific communities both of the European neighbouring countries and the world. More than 230 Institutions from non-COST countries are currently participating in COST Actions.

In general, researchers from institutions in non-COST countries do not receive economic support from COST. However, COST has established a particular strategy to encourage participation in COST Actions by researchers from the "near-neighbouring countries" \* : Up to two researchers from an institution in these countries may be reimbursed for attendance at the meetings of any COST Action that they have joined, and are eligible to be supported to participate in other activities decided at the level of individual Actions.

\* The Balkan and Eastern European countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine) and the Mediterranean and north African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority).

In July 2007 two reciprocal schemes entered into force to facilitate cooperation with researchers from Australia and New Zealand in COST Actions. Drawing on dedicated funds from their respective governments, these support the travel and subsistence costs of researchers from Australia and New Zealand who participate in COST Actions. Within ten months of the launch of these schemes participation from these two countries had more than tripled. In 2009, a similar arrangement was concluded with South Africa. India, Morocco and Argentina are currently also looking at the possibility of similar arrangements.

## 11. COST IN FP7

In December 2006 the EU Council decided to allocate to COST up to 250 million Euro for the duration of the EU 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013). This increase of about 80% in financial support to COST compared to the 6th Framework Programme is an acknowledgment of the excellence of COST, and a reward of paramount importance for the entire COST community. In particular it is a recognition of the participants in the COST Actions, the real "raison d'être" of COST and, in general, for the entire European scientific community, with their overwhelming response to the COST Open Call confirming the vitality of the COST framework.

COST will continue to contribute to the development of the ERA while maintaining its principal values, adapting its structures and therefore contributing to the development of Europe's competitiveness on the world scale.



## THE FUTURE OF COST

COST Vision 2020 is framed by the Strategic 2020 Vision for the European Research Area (ERA). There are several modes of cooperation and instruments to fulfil the mission of ERA. One of them is COST - "European Cooperation in Science and Technology" - with long and unique experience in the coordination of nationally funded research activities.

COST activities have been continuously developed in response to the needs of the European scientific community and the COST member states, whilst however maintaining its principal values and characteristics. A series of reforms has influenced and changed the whole COST system. Its structure now encourages more multidisciplinary. The COST Actions have become more objective driven. Open calls have been included. Scientific quality control has been reinforced. Dissemination of results has been diversified. Global participation in COST Actions has increased significantly and early stage researchers have gained a stronger role. These and further adaptations will continue to adjust COST to a changing environment and demonstrate COST's dynamism and ability to adapt to the changing needs of international cooperation.

In Europe's balanced multitude of different systems for the support of research, education and innovation, COST continues to play a very distinct role and to complement other actors in the ERA, providing openness and equality of access to activities in a unique way. There continues to be a strong demand for coordination of bottom-up research activities, and the basic principles of COST – flexibility and openness – are widely recognised. Therefore the level of COST's activities has been maintained and those activities broadened. COST's Vision of its place in the European Research Area in 2020 is:

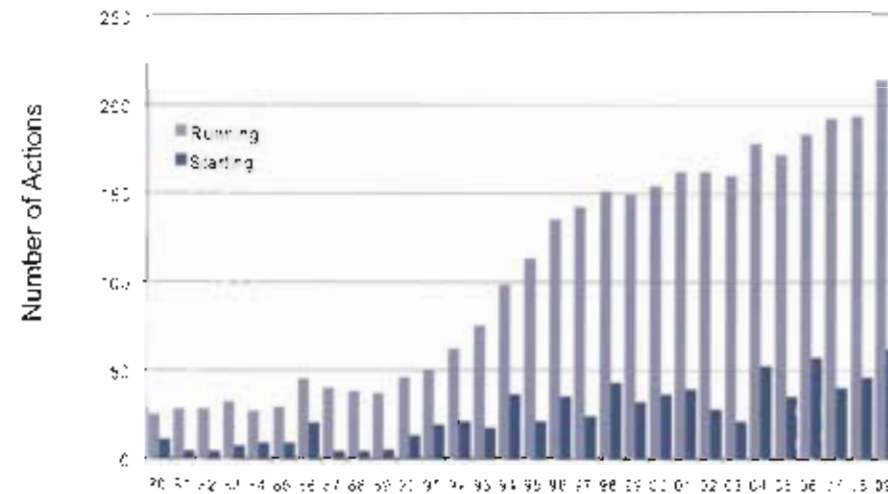
- ▶ COST continues to be a flexible, fast, effective and efficient tool to network and coordinate nationally funded research activities at project level, bringing motivated scientists together under light strategic guidance and letting them work out their ideas, thus contributing to overcome the fragmentation of research in the ERA. A significant share of the European scientific community is involved, directly or indirectly, in COST activities.
- ▶ COST responds to future needs; it acts as an exploratorium for ideas and addresses emerging and unforeseen developments. It addresses ambitious goals and more complex questions and has enhanced its precursor role. COST Actions are objective-driven and often multidisciplinary. Their objectives are clearly defined and information arising from COST Actions provides well-structured evidence-based input for policy making and they contribute to Europe's competitiveness and socio-economic development. Whilst maintaining its bottom-up character, COST is open to support longer-term planning processes in the development of new COST Actions.
- ▶ COST acts as a catalyst for long-term networking and in particular supports early career scientists and newly established research groups, strengthening their future participation in European and other international research initiatives.
- ▶ COST provides a framework for pre-normative cooperation leading to international norms and standards.
- ▶ COST is an inclusive and flexible international framework for the benefit of the European scientific community. COST has a worldwide geographical coverage which will be further extended in a pragmatic way by continuing to involve non-member countries in its Actions and through a more structured series of collaborative arrangements.



# STATISTICS

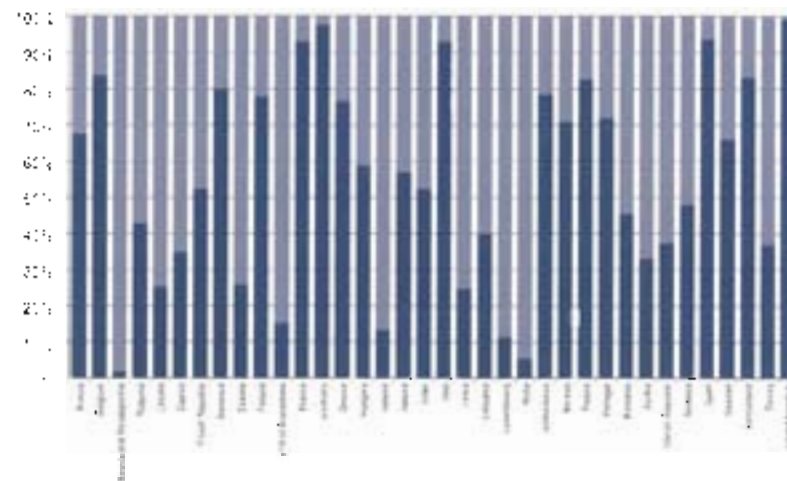
## Yearly evolution of the Running and Started COST Actions up to 2009

(Status on 31st December)



## COST country rate of participation 2009

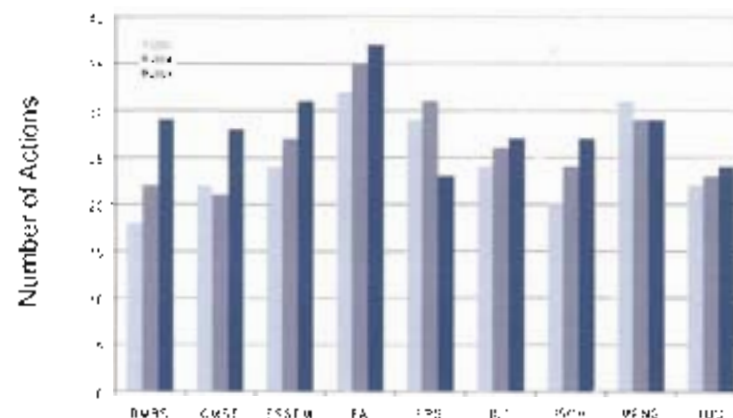
(% of the total number of running Actions)





## Number of COST Actions by Domain 2007 - 2009

(running any time of the year)

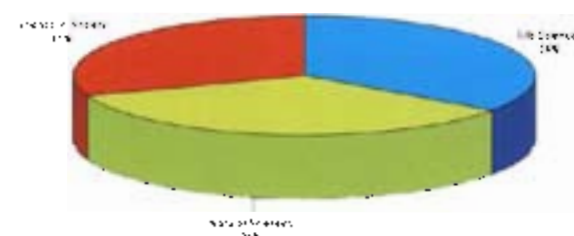


Number of Actions Running any time of the year

YEAR	2007	2008	2009
Extradiplomacy and Modern Law Review sciences (BMBS)	18	22	29
Chemistry and Molecular Sciences & Technologies (CMST)	22	21	29
Earth System Science and Environ- mental Management (ESSEM)	24	27	31
Food and Agriculture (FA)	32	35	37
Forests, their Products and Services (FPS)	29	31	23
Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH)	20	24	27
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	24	26	27
Materials, Physics and Nanosciences (MPMS)	31	29	29
Transport and Urban Development (TUD)	22	23	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>255</b>

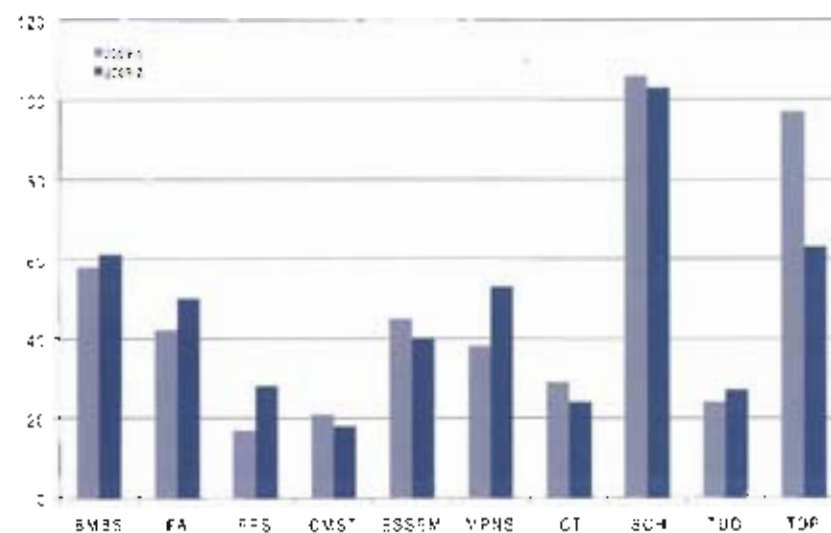
## Share of COST Actions by Cluster 2009

(running any time of the year)



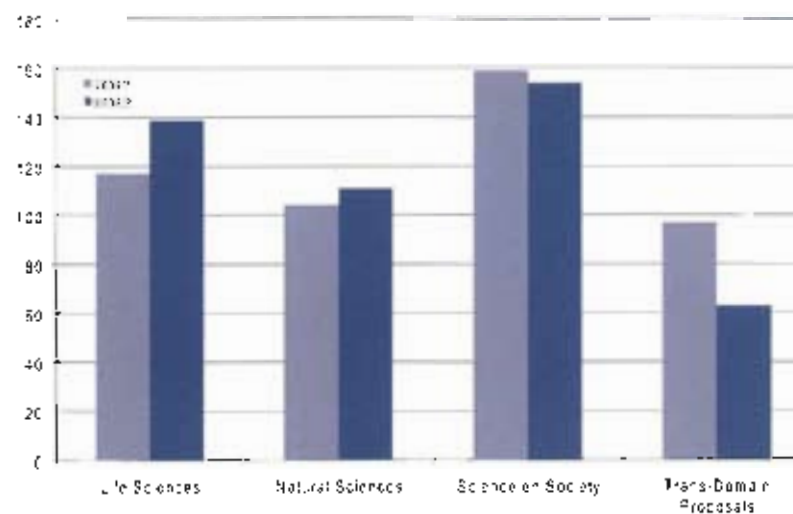
## Open Call - number of pre-proposals by Domain

(Collection dates 2009-1 and 2009-2)



## Open Call - number of pre-proposals by Cluster

(Collection dates 2009-1 and 2009-2)





# PARTICIPATION OF Non-COST COUNTRY INSTITUTIONS

*Participation of non-COST country institutions in 2009  
(Total: 340 participations from 40 countries in 126 Actions)*

