****

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

**ALTERNATE MINISTER FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

**PRESS OFFICE**

**Address: 37, An. Papandreou Str., 15180 Maroussi, Athens**

**Contact numbers: 210 3442906, 210 3442158**

**Secretariat telephone number:2103443525**

**Website address: erevna.minedu.gov.gr**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Strengthening Greece’s participation in CERN**

The Greek Alternate Minister for Research & Innovation Costas Fotakis and the Secretary General for Research and Technology Dr. Particia Kyprianidou discussed the potential for enhancing the payoff from Greece’s annual contribution to CERN for the benefit of Greek researchers and industry sectors, at a meeting with Fabiola Gianotti, the Director-General of CERN, and CERN executives held at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) premises in Geneva.

The meeting, held on May 3, 2019, addressed the prospect of upgrading experiments scheduled for the coming years as well as the possibility of launching synergies between CERN and the Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation (HFRI) supporting young scientists as a bulwark against brain drain.

In addition to Mr. Fotakis and Dr. Patricia Kyprianidou, Professor C. Fountas, national representative of Greece toCERN, members of the Permanent Mission of Greece in Geneva, as well as Emm. Tsesmelis, responsible for Greece-related issues at CERN, were also present at this particularly warm and productive meeting.

As part of the visit, the Greek delegation was given a tour of the CMS and ATLAS experiments and had the opportunity to exchange views with Greek scientists, postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers and employees at CERN on the favourable research environment and prospects for scientific careers gradually restored in Greece these past few years.

It is worth mentioning that, despite fiscal difficulties, the Greek government has been repaying, since 2015, Greece’s outstanding liabilities to CERN amounting to 38 million Swiss francs inherited by previous governments, and has restored the voting rights of Greece in the CERN Council.

Greece, an EU Member State and a country boasting high-standard research activity and an outward-looking mentality, has achieved a well-established presence in major European and international research bodies, as well in transnational and regional research programmes.

Greece is furthermore a permanent and active member of CERN and one of its twelve founding member states. Participation of Greek scientists and Greek high-tech companies in CERN experiments contributes greatly to transferring state-of-the-art technology and training new scientists, postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers in various fields including high energy physics, mathematics, informatics, electronics and engineering.