

Ispra, 24th September 2015

NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF
MR V. ŠUCHA – DIRECTOR GENERAL JRC

Subject: Transfer of JRC Ispra laboratories

Dear Mr Šucha,

We take the occasion to thank you for replying to our note of 8th September, and for the time taken to address our colleagues at IHCP last week - and in particular to explain your view and your vision on the concerned activities. R&D appreciates your frankness and openness although some colleagues felt offended by references to perceived poor performance in some areas. We understand though that diplomacy is not the main concern and that we have to work together for a better future of the JRC.

In your letter you also mention new possible activities at IHCP, which is encouraging. It would have been preferable if these discussions with staff took place at an earlier stage of the process; we are convinced that, if addressed at the right time, this would have resulted in much less misunderstanding and unnecessary frustration.

Nevertheless, staff is now invited to provide ideas and we will contribute to foster creative and so far unexplored solutions. In order to pursue a constructive dialogue, R&D is committed to present very soon some proposals developed by our members, which we hope will be useful. During the meeting with staff you also made reference to a recent letter to our Commissioner about your strategy for the JRC - we think it would be very useful for staff to know the detailed strategic thinking contained therein.

While a decision for an administrative transfer of EURLs from IHCP to IRMM has been taken, we understand that a final decision regarding a physical transfer of activities from Ispra to Geel has not. In particular, for all of 2016, GMO and FCM activities will continue to be carried out at IHCP, without any plan in place to physically move these activities to Geel. Further decisions will be taken only after a thorough analysis of the strategic, scientific and cost benefits, and after evaluating the new proposals coming from concerned staff.

We are confident that you and the Directors concerned all share a common understanding of the *status quo* and we and staff would welcome a single clear message from the three of you that this is the case. We are particularly satisfied by your decision to establish a Working Group on the future of GMO activities at the JRC where all stakeholders will have the opportunity for a frank exchange of views, and we invite you to make this become a common practise for similar ongoing and future decisions.

Robert Kenny
R&D Ispra
(signed)

Bernd Gawlik
R&D Ispra
(signed)

Cc. K. Maruszewski
E. Anklam