

**Statement by the Head of the United Kingdom Delegation,**  
**Professor R. Wade, at the Open Session of the CERN Council,**  
**Friday 14 December 2007**

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of the CERN Council President, Professor Torsten Åkesson)

Professor WADE: If I might now make a brief statement on behalf of the UK delegation. I'm sure a number of you will be aware that, presently in the UK in the Science and Technology Facilities Council, we're facing some severe financial difficulties. This is despite the fact that the UK government continues to increase its investment in science and technology in quite a significant way, and we are benefiting from that increase. But a number of factors in our programme mean that we do have to do some quite significant restructuring and re-profiling, re-prioritisation of our budgets, and this affects a number of subjects, including particle physics. It goes right across our programme. An indication of the seriousness of the situation is the fact that, in our delivery plan which is now published, available in several places and quite widely reported in the press, we have announced withdrawal from our participation in the International Linear Collider project. I mention that because it is an indication of the serious situation that we face.

I would emphasise that that doesn't mean that we're stopping our investment in accelerator R&D and detector R&D, but the programme will be significantly reduced and will not be focussed on the project known as the International Linear Collider, but that doesn't mean that we won't be involved in future collider projects.

What we will be doing is focussing our activities much more towards CERN, and we will be trying to restructure a lot of our R&D activity so that it focuses more on CERN. So there is a very positive message there.

With regard to the consolidation programme, which is enabled by the current Budget, personally I strongly support this programme, and the UK position is to strongly support the programme, which we see as essential for our highest priority, the full exploitation of the LHC in the years to come. We see it as extremely important and we fully recognise that this is not just a question of the Budget on which we are voting this year, but in the next couple of years. So we need to recognise that there's a long-term commitment being made here.

Unfortunately, we find ourselves in a position of difficulty that has the implication for us that any increase in the CERN Budget has to be absorbed within our programme in the UK and, in this case, specifically absorbed within the particle physics programme within the UK. Therefore, I have to tell you that any increase in the CERN Budget will result in job losses in the UK, both in our laboratories and in university groups, and that is very regrettable. I think you will therefore understand that, whilst we strongly support CERN and the consolidation programme, under the circumstances I cannot vote in favour of the increased Budget at this meeting.

UK Vote: abstention.