OPENING REMARKS

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Let me welcome you here to this workshop and thank you for your interest. We attach a lot of importance to this workshop because we believe, in the long run, that Fixed Target physics at CERN must continue. The colliders we have, pp and later LEP, are certainly very interesting machines but still the nature of these colliders is such that each opens up a very interesting window to high energies, but the windows are relatively narrow in the sense that the kinds of particles that one can collide are limited. I think that for a laboratory that is serving 2000 physicists from the outside, it is very important to have a sufficiently broad programme that is not too restrictive. Therefore, I am convinced that even at a time when LEP will come into operation, it is absolutely necessary to continue also a Fixed Target programme. With the limitations that we are going to have in the coming years, we have to try to do as good a planning as possible. Planning in our field, of course, should not mean that everything determined now should fix what is going to happen in the next six or seven years. With all the planning we have to be flexible to respond to the needs of the physics and to respond to your wishes, but still with the limitations of money and even more so, of manpower. We have to submit to Council every year a paper on long-term scientific activities over a period of five years or more. Since our task is to set up a programme which corresponds to the wishes of the physicists who work here, it is very important to have your ideas as an input to planning and that is where I see the importance of this meeting. This is also seen by the Scientific Policy Committee who have decided to have a meeting on Saturday while Friday will be considered as an Open Meeting of the SPC. So it can be seen that these problems are treated seriously. I am expecting to get a lot of information about your ideas and your wishes which we can take into account in setting up our planning.

I was impressed by the amount of work that was done over the last months in preparation for this meeting and this shows how great is the interest and how much enthusiasm there is, and I would like to thank already now all the rapporteurs and discussion leaders who have been participating in that work and in particular I would like to thank Italo Mannelli who has been so kind as to take on the task of organizing this meeting which involved a lot of work. I am sure it will be successful and we, the Management, and also the Scientific Policy Committee will profit from the results which will come out from this meeting.