

German court pleads for CERN/LHC safety conference

While the world's largest atom smasher, CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC) near Geneva/Switzerland, these days is going to be restarted after a two months break, a German Court, although rejecting a claim to oblige German CERN deputies to stop LHC's scheduled high energy running, urges German government to convene a safety conference on collider's potential catastrophic dangers.

„The court points out its opinion that it should be possible to let discuss the various safety aspects that have been issue of both safety reports of 2003 and 2008, within the framework of a safety conference" – that's how chairman Mr. Niemeyer, chief judge at the German administrative court at Cologne, logged after three hours of intensive court hearing.

Regarding the trial so far this court statement means a remarkable twist.

Foregone a detailed functional debate had taken place involving scientists, in fact on the one hand Prof. Dr. Rössler, Tübingen University, Germany's most famous critic on LHC project, and on the other hand from the side of CERN two experts named Dr. Voss and Dr. Ringwald.

The critics fear the collider could create stable, rapidly growing Mini black holes or other particle products such as "strange matter" destr oying planet Earth or releasing massive amounts of energy by sort of thermonuclear explosions causing vast environmental damage.

Such catastrophic scenarios even are discussed in CERN's safety reports but there are found to be all falsified.

However, the critics still regard their serious warnings not disproved. They state that safety reports would have to be reviewed for reasons of fundamental new astronomic findings that appeared for the first time in 2009, thus a year after CERN's last safety report, and postulate a safety conference including not only CERN and CERN-related scientists but also the critics.

In juridical terms, the plaintiff Mrs. Gabriele Schröter, a German residing in Zurich/Switzerland, did not succeed with her action against German government because the court regarded the claim not be substantiated since presenting only theoretical dangers.

„This reasoning does not convince at all if, as in this very case, the safety reports themselves also rely on mere theories ", states plaintiff's German attorney Olaf Möhring, reason why he and his client are planning to go into further appeal.

Additionally, the line of CERN's arguments, according to the attorney, would not be intangible at all, in special the key argument of collider's experimental conditions being comparable to cosmic circumstances. "Differences between both are that obvious that even a layman could detect them", points out the attorney who sees the need for broad further investigation for reasons of the so called "precautionary principle" .

„Even though the administrative court in general repeated last year's constitutional court's decision, it has put a strong new signal that cannot be ignored by German government and even CERN", summarizes Mr. Möhring.

The attorney now has sent an open letter to German government, Mrs. Prof. Annette Schavan, Federal minister of sciences, to summon the safety conference the critics have been fighting for many years.

„One might be prying whether the judge's plea will be realized or not. Although the safety conference cannot be enforced by juridical means, it is striking how clearly, in political terms, the court articulated that this conference now finally should take place and that particularly critical scientists should be involved in this process in order to make good for entire safety assessment", concludes the attorney.

Source: Olaf Möhring, Rechtsanwalt (German attorney), Mönchengladbach/Germany