

Brussels, 09. 03. 2018  
Ares(2018)

Dear Colleagues,

We thank you for your letter of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and appreciate your positive approach for a stronger and more streamlined JRC with proposals for future developments of the Ispra site.

The adoption of the JRC 2030 Strategy in mid-2016 has led to a number of significant improvements in the organisation and branding of the JRC as the European Commission's Science and Knowledge service. This is recognised in the Implementation Review 2017 by independent external experts in the context of the interim evaluation of the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme. Through a number of important initiatives, the JRC has positioned itself as a strategic partner close to the political heart of the Commission. In addition, a single, consolidated organisation for the development of the infrastructures of the JRC across all sites and all Directorates was introduced.

The specific proposals you suggest for the Ispra site, including a hub promoting science diplomacy and strengthening the bridge between science and policy could be discussed in that framework. The suggestion to host future new structures on the Ispra site is interesting, however not one we consider viable at this time.

Regarding the OIB and JRC site management, we would like to refer back to previous exchanges you had on this issue with former Vice-President Georgieva (Ares(2016)3985878). Based upon the study done in 2015, the decision was taken to create a dedicated entity within the JRC to ensure the governance of the infrastructure for all JRC sites (2016). The different sites host a wide variety of infrastructure types, including nuclear facilities and highly specialised scientific laboratories besides administrative infrastructure.

R&D Ispra

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The JRC site management services have built up a high level of expertise in managing this diversity of facilities. The above mentioned analysis has shown that the current integrated approach of managing all site facilities within a single department of the JRC provides the most efficient organisational structure. The fine-tuning of the structure of the Ispra Site Management Department that came into force as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, aims to further improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Günther Oettinger in blue ink.

Günther OETTINGER

Handwritten signature of Tibor Navracsics in blue ink.

Tibor NAVRACSICS