

Mol, 3 January 2011,

Dear Friends,

After 10 years of research, 2010 became finally the year of recognition for the MYRRHA research infrastructure. This recognition came firstly, in March, from the Belgian Federal Government, then in November, from the European scientific community via the SET Plan and ESFRI (the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructure), who has elected MYRRHA as a priority large European research infrastructure, and finally in December from the internet users who have propelled Hamid Aït Abderrahim to the second place of the top 100 personalities of the year proposed by the weekly newspaper Le Vif (ref. to enclosed press release published in Le Vif on this 31st December 2010).

What a surprise for the personnel of SCK•CEN to discover one of their colleagues amongst world famous personalities (Mark Zuckerberg, Lady Gaga, Kim Clijsters, Aung San Suu Kyi, Pope Benedict XVI, Liu Xiabao,...).

It is a real pleasure to see a scientist acclaimed by internet users and the appreciation given to the work of so many people for so many years. As scientists, we have always been convinced of the necessity of our research and the need of a project like MYRRHA for society. Today, the results of that public poll confirm to everyone who has been supporting, that they were right in their appreciation of the MYRRHA project.

MYRRHA shall contribute from 2022-2023 to the development of innovative solutions in the fields of nuclear energy, medicine and the industry of renewable energy sources. MYRRHA shall contribute to the research and development of transmutation of highly radioactive nuclear waste.

On behalf of SCK•CEN, we would like to thank you sincerely for your involvement, your friendly encouragements, your support and may be also for your vote. And if we had only one wish to make for 2011, it shall be our renewed commitment for the coming ten years in order to secure the realisation of MYRRHA!

We wish you and your family a wonderful year 2011.

Frank Deconinck, *Chairman of the Board*

Catherine Gernay, *Executive Officer*

Eric van Walle, *Director-General*

Christian Legrain, *Secretary-General*

Pierre D'hondt, *Deputy Director-General*

Hamid Aït Abderrahim, *Deputy Director-General*