

OPENING STATEMENT TO CIEMAT SEMINAR  
22 APR 2010, Madrid,

Michel Zayet, STCU, Deputy Executive Director (European Union)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First I would like to express my gratitude to CIEMAT and ISTC for the invitation to this series of meetings.

Also thank you Mr. Van der Meer for the introductory words on the two Centers, ISTC and STCU. This event reminds me of a similar approach used with three thematic workshops on similar topics, two years ago in Ljubljana, Slovenia with Scientists from the both ISTC and STCU. One outcome was also the cross-fertilization that took place between all the Centers' Countries' Scientists, and hope it will happen again today.

STCU celebrates its fifteenth year of operation this year. We have now an experience of over 1300 funded projects worth an aggregated value of over 190 million USD. We work in 5 countries, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan (although no more projects are active today in Uzbekistan).

STCU has 3 Collaboration Research Programs:

- REGULAR Projects with 100% funding from the European Commission for the EU part. Currently, the available funding for these projects is being constantly reduced.
- TARGETED CO-FUNDING INITIATIVE where 50% of the contribution comes from one of the Recipient Countries' Entity like for instance from the Georgian National Science Foundation, and the other half from the European Union (European Commission) as Funding Party.
- Finally, the PARTNER Program with 100% of financing offered by the Partner (either Public or Private). In this program the Partner owns full Intellectual Property of the Research activities.

This year, CIEMAT became an STCU Partner and a first project was signed. The project is starting currently as we speak. This new collaboration that we very much value was a strong positive reason for STCU to answer the call to assemble a group of visiting scientists to your events.

We are here today and tomorrow at your disposal to discuss all details of our activities, do not hesitate to my colleagues and myself. We look forward to generating new collaborations and partner projects.

Thank you for your attention,