



Brussels, 7.1.2025
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 7.1.2025

**setting up the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory ERIC
(CTAO ERIC)**

(Text with EEA relevance)

(Only the Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Slovenian and Spanish texts are authentic)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 of 25 June 2009 on the Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)¹, and in particular Article 6(1), point (a), thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Austria, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Spain and the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere submitted to the Commission an application in accordance with Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 to set up the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory (CTAO) ('the application'). Switzerland has made known its decision to participate in CTAO ERIC initially as an observer.
- (2) The applicants have agreed that Italy would be the host Member State of CTAO ERIC.
- (3) Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 has been incorporated in the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) by Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 72/2015².
- (4) The Commission has, pursuant to Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 723/2009, assessed the application and concluded that it meets the requirements set out in that Regulation. In the course of the assessment, the Commission obtained the views of independent experts in the field of impacts of gamma-ray astronomy, astrophysics, particle physics, plasma physics and fundamental physics.
- (5) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 20 of Regulation (EC) No 723/2009,

¹ OJ L 206, 8.8.2009, p. 1.

² Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 72/2015 of 20 March 2015 amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms [2016/755] (OJ L 129, 19.5.2016, p. 85).

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory ERIC (CTAO ERIC) is set up.
2. The essential elements of the Statutes of CTAO ERIC as referred to in Article 6(3) of Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 are set out in the Annex.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Czech Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Spain, the French Republic, the Italian Republic, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia, the Swiss Confederation and the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere.

Done at Brussels, 7.1.2025

For the Commission
Ekaterina ZAHARIEVA
Member of the Commission

