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To: Ombudsman for Science in Germany, Prof. W. Loewer, Bonn

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and

To: Chairman of the Board of Directors of DESY, Prof. H. Dosch, Hamburg

Email: [desy-director@desy.de](mailto:desy-director@desy.de)

CC: Dr. T. Riemann, ZFITTER spokesperson, [tordriemann@googlemail.com](mailto:tordriemann@googlemail.com)

20 September 2012, Valencia

Dear Professor Loewer, Dear Professor Dosch,

I am a long-term member of the ZFITTER collaboration, concerning both the real corrections and the Standard Model library. I am engaged with the very ZFITTER project since 1984, and with foregoing related projects since 1975.

My work on ZFITTER started at the Laboratory for Theoretical Physics of JINR, Dubna, Russia, and I have been working since then at many research institutions: CERN (Geneva), DESY (Hamburg), ICTP (Trieste) and the Universities of Darmstadt and Siegen as visiting scientist from the Institute of Physics of Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences (Baku). Since 1998 I have been teaching at the University of Valencia (Spain), King Saud University (Riyadh) and King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (Dhahran) in Saudi Arabia.

I was informed by Dr. Tord Riemann on all the developments in Germany around the software Gfitter and the publications based on it. As it is known, he is authorized by myself, as well as by the other ZFITTER authors, to act as our spokesperson in order to defend the natural authors' interests of the ZFITTER collaboration.

I fully support his engagement under sometimes nontrivial conditions and expect that Gfitter authors will finally find a way to behave properly.

Dr. Tord Riemann made me familiar with the Arbitration Award (Schiedsspruch) of 3 July 2012 by Professor Loewer. Here is not the place and not the moment to judge the Arbitration Award in detail. If it will get realized properly, then a large fraction of problems raised by Gfitter group will get resolved.

Though, there is one statement indeed, which makes me wonder, and one omission.

### **The statement.**

The Arbitration Award expresses the impression of the Ombudsman that there are no well-defined rules of using scientific software. As a result, he finds that Gfitter authors are not responsible for the problems raised by their scientific activity.

I cannot agree on that. There are strict rules for using scientific software of others in elementary particle physics and all the basic research, as well as there are strict rules for using other scientific results in general: The absolute minimum is, one has to properly quote. If then remain problems, they have to be discussed.

Absolutely everybody knows the rules.

Concerning ZFITTER and its Standard Model library, there are even licence statements due to the internationally distinguished scientific journal "Computer Physics Communications" in 1990, 2001, 2006. The licences are issued to the authors.

If you say that Gfitter group did not know rules or licences, then you place them outside the scientific community: They did not learn their job appropriately. As a necessary consequence, then they should not be allowed to publish scientific results on their own responsibility, not to educate young scientists, not to take responsibility in international cooperation - until they know how to do scientific research.

And the question arises: Why don't these distinguished German Scientists know the internationally accepted ethical and legal rules?

Didn't they learn them during their education?

I learned physics at Moscow State University and at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research JINR, Dubna, Russia.

I can tell you that there was never a grain of doubt about proper behavior for me and for everybody else.

I, and also the other colleagues of ZFITTER, and also our collaborators expect that the responsibility of Gfitter authors gets determined in a more proper way than formulated in the Arbitration Award.

But, of course the Gfitter authors know the rules. They decided not to apply them.

**The omission.**

We found proof of use of text, authored by ZFITTER persons, in two Gfitter publications without any mentioning of the origin. These text 'integrations' extend over about 5 preprint pages, as if they were the invention of Gfitter group. Why is this fact not mentioned at all in the Arbitration Award? Does Professor Loewer find this fact not important and not worth to be mentioned?

I would be glad if you find the time to take notice of my certainly preliminary remarks.

We, the ZFITTER authors, are a part of the international community of researchers. We hope strongly that the German scientific community finds a satisfactory approach to the Gfitter problems and holds those high standards in this respect, which we are used to when Germany acts.

Respectfully,

Prof. Arif Akhundov