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### **Statement from the director of the institute on the final report of the Commission No. 8**

First of all, I would like to thank the Commission for the stimulating visit and for the thorough and thoughtful evaluation report. We appreciate the feedback provided by the Commission and feel that the main comments and recommendations are in accord with our self-assessment and outcomes of our internal evaluations. Henceforth, we shall be taking steps to incorporate them in the Institute's development plans for the next period.

Given the substantial effort we put into restructuring the Institute (during 2012-13) to improve its research activities with regard to quality, timeliness, and relevance, we were pleased to see that the Commission appreciates the changes we have made and the progress we have achieved since the last evaluation exercise (*"IPE strives to identify and pursue timely and significant research topics. This has been demonstrated by the restructuring of research units in 2012 during which several research programs that were no longer deemed relevant and competitive were substantially reduced or closed (e.g., speech synthesis) and new research topics were opened."* ... *"The recent restructuring dating back to 2012-2013 has substantially improved the age structure and sustainability of the main activities pursued by IPE."* ... *"The result of this new organization seems to answer to a more competitive approach that relies on the capabilities of young team leaders and research groups. The current Institute structure is very good."*). This encourages us to continue to strive to further improve the quality and international positioning of the Institute.

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Director of the Institute