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Re: FuturICT - Unleashing the Power of Information for a Sustainable Future

To who it might concern,

As you may know, COST is very much concerned with establishing new networks in innovative areas of science and technology. Complex systems science has over the past few years been supported first by COST P10 Physics of Risk and currently by COST MP0801 Physics of conflict and cooperation. The aim of this latest action is to nurture and support researchers interested in applying methods of complex systems to social and economic systems. These concerted actions have partners from over 24 European member states and many of the partners have been informed, and indeed are informing, the proposal being put forward by Professor Helbing for his idea of a flagship. COST MP0801 will continue for another two years and we expect to help feed many new ideas into the Flagship project. In this way we shall provide a valuable link and input for key projects concerned with the application of new mathematics and physical ideas into the social and economic sciences which are in sore need of new intellectual input.

As Coordinator of these COST initiatives I firmly support this proposal for a flagship and I know that colleagues are also very supportive and will be very interested in the project. The ideas being proposed will take our activity forward in new and, at the moment unknown ways and we believe the FuturICT programme is truly both adventurous and challenging. The goals of FuturICT very neatly match the interests of all colleagues within COST.

Many if not most will be keen to work with Professor Helbing and collaborate on this important project and I am sure that the others will follow suit once they become more aware of the particulars.

We therefore strongly support this proposal and hope very much that it will be supported by the EC.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Peter Richmond', written in a cursive style.

Peter Richmond BSc PhD DSc
Chairman COST action MP0801 Physics of Conflict and Cooperation