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**Autor:** Steinemann, S. / Stella, A. / Martin, J.-L.

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## FOREWORD

In the month of May, the Swiss Physical Society and the Gruppo Nazionale di Struttura della Materia (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche) organized a common meeting held in Como. This meeting was a great success, considering both the scientific level of all talks and contributions and the overall attendance of about 350 participants.

The main theme of the meeting aimed at the recent developments in condensed matter physics in the two countries. Plenary and poster sessions covered the aspects of semiconductors, interfaces and small particles, material science, many-body problems and statistical mechanics, magnetism and superconductivity. During the same meeting convened the sections of nuclear, particle and astrophysics and theoretical physics of SPS.

The success of this conference had certainly its origin in the many collaborations and scientific exchanges going on between research laboratories and Universities in the two countries. Such collaborations, which involve many young researchers, will remain vital for desirable encounters of the kind in the future.

The beautiful scenery of Villa Olmo, the lake and its surrounding have been enjoyed by all and has provided once again an ideal place (despite some rain !) for hosting such meetings near the border of our countries.

S. Steinemann  
J.-L. Martin  
Y. Baer

A. Stella  
L. Miglio  
F. Bassani

