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**NOTE**

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From : The Commission  
To : Delegations  
Subject : ITER  
- Information from the Commission on the state of play

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Delegations will find, in annex, an information note from the Commission services on the above-mentioned topic.

## **ITER**

### **Information from the Commission on the state of play**

ITER is a global cooperative project to build and operate an experimental reactor with the aim of demonstrating the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion power for peaceful purposes.

The successful accomplishment of the ITER project is central to establishing whether fusion can become a major sustainable energy source contributing to the EU's strategy for the long term security in the supply of energy. The ITER project should be followed by a demonstration phase on the path towards the commercial exploitation of fusion power.

The level of ambition and efforts required to build ITER and the political importance of its goals warranted international cooperation on a large scale. Its earlier phases of Conceptual and then Engineering Design Activities were conducted under the auspices of the IAEA, through international collaboration involving Euratom, Japan the Russian Federation and the USA.

Following almost five years of negotiations the ITER agreement has been signed in November 2006 between the Community and 6 other Parties - China, India, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the USA. It entered into force in October 2007. The Agreement established the ITER Organization, in Cadarache, France, to be responsible for the joint implementation of the ITER project. As Host Party to the Agreement the Community is the largest single contributor of resources to ITER Organization.

The designation of Europe as Host Party also endows the Community with special responsibility for and commitments to the project. The Commission acts for the Community in the governance of the project, in particular through its representation at the ITER Council which is the principal organ of the ITER Organization.

The launch of the ITER project marked an important milestone in the development of world-wide big science collaboration. The ITER Organization presents a possible model for future large scale collaborative infrastructure projects. Implementation of ITER is therefore a model for future international scientific collaborations on big-scale projects.

The project is planned to last for thirty five years, over three phases. The current - construction - phase of about ten years would be followed by about twenty years of experimental operations and then a five year de-activation phase.

Under the agreed framework for implementation almost 90% of the components/systems for ITER are due to be contributed 'in-kind" from the Parties acting through specially established "Domestic Agencies". Euratom has established its Domestic Agency as the Joint Undertaking for ITER – "Fusion for Energy (F4E)" – based in Barcelona.

Commissioner Potočník presented an information note from the Commission on ITER Status to the Competitiveness Council meeting of 2 December 2008. The Presidency conclusions from that Meeting invited the Commission to keep Member States informed on developments.