



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**RECH 324
ATO 54**

NOTE

From: The Commission
To: Delegations
Subject: ITER
- Information from the Commission

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

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Information from the Commission

The Council Conclusions of 12 July on ITER requested a number of initiatives: a proposal for covering the ITER financing gap for 2012-2013, Euratom's support to the adoption of the so-called ITER Baseline (scope, schedule and costs of the project), an improvement of the ITER project governance and management, as well as a cost containment plan.

On 20 July, the Commission adopted a proposal for covering the ITER financing gap of 1.4 Billion € for 2012-2013 . An amount of 460 M€ is proposed to be covered through redeployment from the Seventh Research Framework Programme within Heading 1A, amounting to one third of the above mentioned gap. At the same time, the Commission proposes to transfer 400 M€ of unspent funds from Heading 2 to Heading 1A. The remaining 540 M€ would be secured at a later stage, starting with the budgetary conciliation in November 2010.

Following the mandate given by the Council, Euratom joined its ITER international partners in their support to the adoption of the ITER Baseline at the extraordinary ITER Council meeting of 28 July; the Baseline was adopted. Euratom's support was given ad referendum. Both arms of the budgetary authority are now to approve and secure the financing of the project.

Concerning the ITER project governance, the Commission is working on specific proposals for its improvement, both at the level of the EU Domestic Agency, Fusion for Energy (F4E), and of the ITER Organization. These proposals will be presented in time for the Competitiveness Council of 26 November 2010.

In line with the Council conclusions, the F4E cost containment and reduction plan will be presented to the Council. The ITER Organization will also present its own cost containment measures at the next ITER Council meeting in November 2010.

The Commission expects the two arms of the Budgetary Authority to find an appropriate solution to the additional financing needs of ITER in the framework of the budgetary conciliation meetings (26 October to 15 November).
