



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**RECH 57
ATO 24**

NOTE

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

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

ITER - State of play

Parliament and Council agreed at the end of 2011 to modify the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) to provide an additional EUR 1.3 billion for ITER for 2012 and 2013. The exact source for EUR 360 million in 2013 will be decided through the 2013 EU budget procedure.

As regards the funding of the ITER project beyond 2013, the Commission has proposed, in its Communication of 29 June 2011, “A Budget for Europe 2020”, to fund ITER outside the MFF. In December 2011, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Supplementary Research Programme under the Euratom Treaty for the period 2014-2018. This programme would be funded by contributions to the EU budget by EU Member States and Associated States.

At the last ITER Council meeting in November 2011 the ITER Director General presented proposals to modify some elements of the scope and schedule of the ITER construction. The aim is to start operating the facility in November 2020, in line with the ITER Baseline design (scope, schedule and cost) and respecting the EU Council Conclusions of July 2010, which capped the European contribution to ITER construction at EUR 6.6 billion in 2010 values.

The ITER Council also took note of management improvements at the ITER International Organisation: a new top management, a new project-oriented structure and a professional organisation.

The governance of the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (F4E) has been modified by changing its organisational structure and the role of its Committees, in early 2011. A new senior and middle management team is in place in order to transform F4E into a more project-oriented organisation focused on procurements activities with better cost containment and project management systems and processes.

In September 2011 F4E submitted to the Council its first yearly report on (a) Cost containment and savings plan; (b) Performance and management of the Agency and the ITER project; (c) Fulfilment of the scheduled activities within its annual budget. F4E has completed the implementation of the recommendations of the Court of Auditors which includes, inter alia, the adaptation of Financial Regulation of F4E and the appointment of the Internal Audit Service of the Commission as Internal Auditor of F4E. The Joint Undertaking has also awarded a contract to an independent expert to perform the yearly assessment of the project progress, in response to request by Council in July 2010. This report will be transmitted to the Council and Parliament.

Within the Commission, the political responsibility on ITER has been transferred to Commissioner Oettinger.