



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

From: The Commission
To: "Competitiveness" Council
Subject: ITER developments and the foreseen ITER ministerial meeting in 2013
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on the above-mentioned topic with a view to the Competitiveness Council on 18 February 2013.

**ITER developments and the foreseen ITER ministerial meeting in 2013
Information from the Commission**

ITER is an experimental device aimed at demonstrating the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy. It is being constructed in Europe (Cadarache, France) under an International Agreement with six other Parties (China, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the USA). As the host of the facility, Europe is the major contributor by funding around 45% of the cost of construction.

ITER state of play

Major milestones have been achieved during 2012 and early 2013 for ITER, such as the handover of the ITER headquarters to the ITER Organisation (IO) that was inaugurated on Thursday 17 January 2013 in Cadarache. The Headquarters is one of the contributions from Europe and France to the ITER project.

Moreover, the building for the fabrication of the Poloidal Field coils (the largest ITER superconducting coils) and the works for the Tokamak Pit (the hole hosting the concrete foundation and the seismic patters that will support the tokamak building) have been completed. In addition, the electrical switchyard has been constructed and the grid connection has been made.

Following the licencing process for nuclear installation in France, the French Republic has issued the Decree authorising the installation of the ITER nuclear facility in Cadarache.

However concerns still exist on the progress of the project, in particular cost containment and schedule slippage. For this reason, the IO has put in place new initiatives to improve the project's efficiency. In particular, the IO has adopted a new strategy to better integrate its work with the work of the Domestic Agencies (DAs) by setting up the so-called "Unique ITER Team" (UIT). The objective of this initiative is to improve the decision-making process, as a measure to achieve schedule acceleration. It is to be noted that the Commission has consistently pointed out to the ITER governing bodies that the budget set by the EU Council for Europe's contribution to the construction phase of the project must be strictly respected (€ 6.6 billion in 2008 value).

In the last ITER Council of November 2012, the Commission proposed to the other ITER Parties to hold a ministerial-level meeting of the ITER Council (a possibility allowed under the ITER Agreement) in Cadarache, in September 2013. The objective of this proposal is to provide to the Ministers of the ITER Parties, who last met at Ministerial level in 2006, with accurate information on the state of the project. It should also be the occasion for the Ministers of the ITER Parties to reconfirm their long-term political commitment to the success of the project.

F4E developments

During 2012, F4E continued to deliver Europe's contribution to ITER and by the end of the year had awarded contracts for an amount of €1.8 billion, representing around 40% of the procurements needed to deliver the European contribution to ITER. Moreover, a number of initiatives have been put in place at F4E to improve its project management system, based on internal and external performance assessments.

In 2012, the first independent annual assessment of F4E was carried out and also F4E issued its 2012 Progress report for the period from July 2011 to June 2012. This progress report covered the cost containment and savings plan (to mitigate cost risks) as well as the performance and management of the Joint Undertaking and the fulfilment of scheduled activities. Both documents were transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council of the EU at the end of 2012.