

**Question for written answer E-001293/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Peter Skinner (S&D)

Subject: Future of the Joint European Torus (JET) facility

The Joint European Torus (JET) facility at Culham in Oxfordshire has been operational for more than 50 years and employs more than 300 of the best fusion scientists in Europe or anywhere in the world. Much of the work being carried out prepares the way for the functioning of the ITER fusion reactor project.

Given that the operational lifespan of the JET project is due to come to an end in 2018 and that many of the most recent estimates suggest that 2020 may be an ambitious start date for ITER, can the Commission provide detailed information as to what support will be available to the scientists involved should there be a gap between the ending of one project and the commencement of another?

Can it also give some indication as to what future is planned for the world-class facility at Culham once the JET programme has come to an end, whenever that may be?