



Press Release - 30. 05. 2013

Funding of ITER project over and above the MFF ceilings says Energy Committee

Members of Parliament's Energy Committee voted on Thursday in favour of financing the ITER project (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) "over and above the MFF ceilings" for the next five years (2014-2018), in order to ensure the control of its financing by both arms of EU's budgetary authority while avoiding at the same time any possible redeployments at the expense of other EU programmes. Parliament is consulted on this file and will vote on its final opinion in July's plenary.

"The proposal by the Commission is not the appropriate instrument for providing a long-term and secure European contribution to the ITER project. The EU, as the host party of this project, has the duty to guarantee that it will continue to strongly support ITER in the coming decades. Lastly, reintegrating ITER in the MFF will provide the European Parliament with a better control of the project", said Vladimír Remek (GUE/NGL, CZ) who drafted the report adopted by the Committee with 37 votes in favour, 5 against and 6 abstentions.

Funding of ITER over and above the MFF ceilings

The supplementary research programme (2014-2018) should be financed through a maximum contribution of EUR 2,573 million "over and above the MFF ceilings, namely outside Heading 1A and additionally to the budget proposed by the Commission for the Horizon 2020 programme, the EURATOM programme or other Union programmes", says the text adopted by the Energy Committee.

MEPs stress that the funding for ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) should have sufficient financial resources while also setting "a ring-fenced maximum amount for contributions from the Union budget for the years 2014-2018" in the MFF regulation.

Safeguarding Union programmes

MEPs recognize that despite containment measures ITER may continue to incur cost overruns due to its scientific nature and to its high magnitude and technological risk. They say that any cost overruns should not have any impact on the budgetary allocations for other projects financed from the Union's budget and should thus be financed through "additional resources over and above the ceilings as appropriate".

Next steps

Parliament is consulted on this file. The plenary vote will take place in July and Council will issue its decision only after receiving Parliament's opinion.

Background information

The ITER project is conducted under the terms of the binding international agreement on the establishment of the ITER International Fusion Energy Organisation between EURATOM, China, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the USA. The proposed supplementary programme covers the contributions to the construction of the ITER facility, procurement of equipment and installations and general technical and administrative support for the project during construction and participation in commissioning and initial operation.

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In the chair: Amalia Sartori (EPP, IT)

Procedure: consultation

Links

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=ITRE>

Meeting documents of Industry, Research and Energy Committee

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/organes/itre/itre_7leg_meetinglist.htm

Profile of rapporteur Vladimír REMEK (GUE/NGL, CZ)

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/28330/VLADIMIR_REMEK_home.html

Legislative Observatory file

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2011/0460\(NLE\)](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2011/0460(NLE))

Potential for reorganization within the ITER project to improve cost-effectiveness (Study)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/studiesdownload.html?languageDocument=EN&file=93330>

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