



2023/2178(DEC)

31.1.2024

AMENDMENTS

1 - 16

Draft report

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(PE753.493v01-00)

2022 discharge: European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (Fusion for Energy)
((2023/2178(DEC))

Amendment 1
Corina Crețu

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (Fusion for Energy) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Joint Undertaking's budget for the financial year 2022 / *Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (Fusion for Energy) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Joint Undertaking's budget for the financial year 2022;*

Amendment

1. Grants the Director of the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (Fusion for Energy) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Joint Undertaking's budget for the financial year 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 2
François Thiollet
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Recital D a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

D a. whereas 2001 ITER “Baseline” estimated that building ITER would cost EUR 5.9 billion (2008 prices) over a 10 years period, with first plasma scheduled for 2016; whereas since then the project has accumulated delays and cost overruns and the current ITER “Baseline” - revised in 2016 - raised the estimated cost to approximately EUR 20 billion and postponed first plasma to 2025;

Or. en

Amendment 3

François Thiollet

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Recital E

Motion for a resolution

E. whereas the Commission's current estimate regarding the total Euratom budget needed for F4E to finance the European part of the implementation of the ITER project and the associated activities up to 2035, amounts to EUR 15 billion (in current values); whereas the ITER host state (France) and the Euratom Member States are to contribute an additional EUR 3.2 billion (in current values)⁵ ;

⁵ Estimates are based on Commission Communication COM(2017) 319 and the related staff working paper SWD(2017) 232, table 4.

Amendment

E. whereas the Commission's current estimate regarding the total Euratom budget needed for F4E to finance the European part of the implementation of the ITER project and the associated activities up to 2035, amounts to EUR 15 billion (in current values); whereas the ITER host state (France) and the Euratom Member States are to contribute an additional EUR 3.2 billion (in current values)⁵ ; ***whereas this current estimate will be revised upwards given that according to the Commission^{1a}, "work towards achieving first plasma continues to advance, but it has become clear that the milestone of reaching it by 2025 can no longer be achieved."***

^{1a} https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/performance-and-reporting/programme-performance-statements/iter-performance_en

⁵ Estimates are based on Commission Communication COM(2017) 319 and the related staff working paper SWD(2017) 232, table 4.

Or. en

Amendment 4

François Thiollet

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Recital E a (new)

E a. whereas ITER accumulated schedule slips (35 months behind schedule), construction (defective components, supply chain), staff safety (irradiation) and staff management problems; whereas according to the French official news agency (AFP), ITER overall building cost multiplied by three and is now around 60 billion euros; whereas, in addition, this already tripled bill will probably continue to increase since the program will have to succeed in producing part of the fuel essential for nuclear fusion: tritium; ^{1a}

1a

https://www.bfmtv.com/economie/entreprises/energie/tout-comprendre-ou-en-sont-les-differents-projets-de-fusion-nucleaire-dans-le-monde_AD-202312100291.html

Or. en

Amendment 5

Corina Crețu, Maria Grapini

Motion for a resolution

Recital G

Motion for a resolution

G. whereas, to increase transparency, the Joint Undertaking should disclose in its annual accounts, relevant information regarding members' contributions at programme level; whereas, for each programme under which they operate, the Joint Undertaking should present per member category up to the year-end, all relevant information including the legal contribution targets set for the respective programme, the volume of contributions received, and the volume of legal commitments;

Amendment

G. whereas, to increase transparency, the Joint Undertaking should disclose in its annual accounts, relevant information regarding members' contributions at programme level; whereas, for each programme under which they operate, the Joint Undertaking should present per member category up to the year-end, all relevant information including the legal contribution targets set for the respective programme, the volume of contributions received, and the volume of legal commitments; ***suggests that the Joint Undertaking continues to improve***

transparency;

Or. en

Amendment 6

François Thiollet

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Notes, however, that the 2022 Estimate at Completion is still based on 2016 milestone and cost assumptions and that these estimates will be subject to significant **revision**, once the new ITER project baseline and requirements are finalised, approved by the ITER Council, and formally communicated to F4E;

Amendment

3. Notes, however, that the 2022 Estimate at Completion is still based on 2016 milestone and cost assumptions and that these estimates will be subject to significant ***increase due to accumulated delays and cost overruns***, once the new ITER project baseline and requirements are finalised, approved by the ITER Council, and formally communicated to F4E;

Or. en

Amendment 7

François Thiollet

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 3 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3 a. Notes with concern that, during 2022, ITER project faced multiple problems related to the delivery of the defective components, which pushed ITER in November 2022 to not only stop the assembly of the vacuum container, but also to remove the already installed segments for repairs; notes, in addition to all these difficulties, that the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) put an end to the ITER assembly in January 2022 amid its scientist's worries related to

the planned quantity Radiation protection around the machine; notes that the ASN authority won't let assembly of the machine move forward until ITER organisation can prove it can keep personnel safe;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Angelika Winzig

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. Notes with concern that Russia is a member of the ITER-IO, with the obligations to deliver several components for the ITER project to the ITER assembly site in France (Cadarache) and to provide annual contributions to the ITER-IO; stresses that this situation presents a high risk of delays and higher costs for the ITER project;

Amendment

5. Notes with concern that Russia is a member of the ITER-IO, with the obligations to deliver several components for the ITER project to the ITER assembly site in France (Cadarache) and to provide annual contributions to the ITER-IO; stresses that this situation presents a high risk of delays and higher costs for the ITER project; ***insists on the need to develop solutions in order to mitigate these risks appropriately; considers that any decision taken should safeguard EU's strategic interests and policy priorities;***

Or. en

Amendment 9
François Thiollet
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Is aware that, in November 2022, the 31st ITER Council⁷ agreed on a baseline update and in its 32nd meeting of 21-22 June 2023⁸ it commissioned the

Amendment

6. Is aware that, in November 2022, the 31st ITER Council^{1a} agreed on a baseline update and in its 32nd meeting of 21-22 June 2023^{1b} it commissioned the

ITER Director-General to present a proposal for the updated ITER baseline for review and approval in **2024**;

ITER Director-General to present a proposal for the updated ITER baseline for review and approval in *April 2024^{1c}*; *is extremely concerned that for two consecutive years, the EP will be required to vote for the discharge of the Fusion for Energy /ITER without having any adequate vision of the cost and the medium and long-term schedule of the project*;

1a

https://www.iter.org/doc/www/content/com/Lists/list_items/Attachments/1061/2022_11_IC-31.pdf.

1b

https://www.iter.org/doc/www/content/com/Lists/list_items/Attachments/1115/2023_06_IC-32.pdf.

1c according to the Commission executability letter for Budget 2024.

7

https://www.iter.org/doc/www/content/com/Lists/list_items/Attachments/1061/2022_11_IC-31.pdf

8

https://www.iter.org/doc/www/content/com/Lists/list_items/Attachments/1115/2023_06_IC-32.pdf

Or. en

Amendment 10

François Thiollet

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7 a. *Is concerned that according a recent scientific article, ITER is “the most delayed—and most cost-inflated—science project in history”^{1a}; recommends that the*

***European Court of Auditors (ECA)
realises a special report evaluating not
only ITER project management and its
impact on the EU general budget but also
its real impact on the EU climate action.***

1a

<https://sciencesprings.wordpress.com/2023/06/15/from-scientific-american-new-documents-reveal-worlds-largest-fusion-project-is-in-big-trouble/>

Or. en

**Amendment 11
Angelika Winzig**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8**

Motion for a resolution

8. ***Notes*** that the EU budget for the 2014-2020 period was fully implemented in commitments at the end of 2020; notes, moreover, that the payment plan for the outstanding commitments is aligned with the delivery plan: EUR 232.2 million for 2022 and EUR 150 million for 2023 and the other remaining payments will materialise in the following years¹⁰ ;

¹⁰ Commission, ITER performance, 2023.

Amendment

8. ***Welcomes*** that the EU budget for the 2014-2020 period was fully implemented in commitments at the end of 2020; notes, moreover, that the payment plan for the outstanding commitments is aligned with the delivery plan: EUR 232.2 million for 2022 and EUR 150 million for 2023 and the other remaining payments will materialise in the following years¹⁰ ;

¹⁰ Commission, ITER performance, 2023.

Or. en

**Amendment 12
Angelika Winzig**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 12**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

12. Notes that the execution rate of F4E's final available budget stood at 72% in commitments and 91% in payments (99.7% and 97.4% respectively in 2021); notes that, the low implementation rates resulted from the slowdown of operational activities at the level of both the ITER-IO and F4E, mainly due to the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, the war of aggression against Ukraine, and recent technical design issues concerning the current assembly phase of the ITER project;

12. Notes that the execution rate of F4E's final available budget stood at 72% in commitments and 91% in payments (99.7% and 97.4% respectively in 2021); notes that, the low implementation rates resulted from the slowdown of operational activities at the level of both the ITER-IO and F4E, mainly due to the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, the ***illegal and unjustified*** war of aggression against Ukraine, and recent technical design issues concerning the current assembly phase of the ITER project;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14

Motion for a resolution

14. ***Underlines*** that the Court considered that there are weaknesses in the implementation of the F4E's administrative budget, due to the fact that this budget is set up as non-dissociated appropriations; notes that, as a result, administrative commitments based on administrative contracts and obligations for which payments that have not been made at the year end, may be carried over for payment to the following year;

Amendment

14. ***Notes with regret*** that the Court considered that there are weaknesses in the implementation of the F4E's administrative budget, due to the fact that this budget is set up as non-dissociated appropriations; notes that, as a result, administrative commitments based on administrative contracts and obligations for which payments that have not been made at the year end, may be carried over for payment to the following year;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Corina Crețu, Maria Grapini

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

17 a. Notes that, the Joint Undertaking has slightly improved the gender balance; notes from the Consolidated Annual Activity Report, as regards gender balance that around 38% were female and 62% male in F4E's workforce; suggests that the Joint Undertaking continues to improve gender balance and strive for a balanced geographical balance in this respect;

Or. en

Amendment 15

Ryszard Czarnecki, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Cristian Terheş, Jorge Buxadé Villalba, Elżbieta Rafalska, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

18. ***Underlines*** that the Court considered that the F4E's senior management situation has remained unstable and in a significant state of transition at the end of 2022 with the departure of the director in June 2022, and the appointment of the head of the Broader Approach Department as ITER-IO Director-General in September 2022, resulting in personnel changes for four of the JU's seven senior management positions;

Amendment

18. ***Regrets*** that the Court considered that the F4E's senior management situation has remained unstable and in a significant state of transition at the end of 2022 with the departure of the director in June 2022, and the appointment of the head of the Broader Approach Department as ITER-IO Director-General in September 2022, resulting in personnel changes for four of the JU's seven senior management positions;

Or. en

Amendment 16

François Thiollet

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

19. Echoes the Court's concern that this situation presents a risk to F4E's sound management and continuity, at a time when experienced senior management staff will be required to implement the new ITER baselines, which have a significant impact on F4E's activities;

19. Echoes the Court's concern that this situation presents a risk to F4E's sound management and continuity, at a time when experienced senior management staff will be required to implement the new ITER baselines, which have a significant impact on F4E's activities; ***recalls its discharge resolution of 10 May 2023[i] underlining that “according to internal and external management assessments and several internal surveys, the main reasons for the deterioration of the working environment at the Joint Undertaking were shortcomings at senior management level, such as non-transparent and dysfunctional decision-making and a lack of social dialogue”. [i]*** [https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2022/2129\(DEC\)&l=en](https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2022/2129(DEC)&l=en)

Or. en