WRITTEN QUESTION P-0978/06
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to the Commission

Subject: Funding for ITER

In Article 3 of the proposal for a decision on the seventh framework programme of the European
Atomic Energy Community EURATOM (COM(2005)119 final), a sum of 2159 million euro is set
aside for research into the field of fusion energy, to include also ITER's construction and set-up costs.
The system of funding for these experimental installations is documented in the accompanying
financial statement, together with details of their joint funding by the third countries participating in
the project, yet there is no specific mention (at least, no visible mention) of an approximate forecast of
ITER's costs, nor of the relative breakdowns required to ascertain the amounts corresponding to the
European Joint Undertaking and the forecast costs of human and administrative resources etc. Nor is
this information to be found in the financial statement accompanying the proposal for a specific
EURATOM programme (COM(2005)445 final).

In a communication published on 28 June 2005, the European Commission estimated the total cost of
ITER's construction to be 4.57 billion euro (based on costs from 2000), to be made available over a
period of ten years, with the EU and France meeting 50% of the costs and each of the other five third
countries participating in the project contributing 10%.

Taking into account the fact that decisions relative to the financial perspective have led to a revision
of the programme's financial perimeters, has the Commission recalculated ITER's approximate
construction costs? Can the Commission offer a breakdown of its installation and set-up costs? What
percentage of the total amount will be met by the host country, the European Union and the five other
participating countries?

Could the Commission explain the relation between the figure of 4.57 billion euro, outlined in the
communication of 28 June 2005, and the 2.159 million euro mooted for fusion activities in the
financial statement for the seventh framework programme?