

Trilogue 7 March 2007

Conclusions

The trilogue meeting was organised in application of point 47 of the Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) on budget discipline and sound financial management of 17 May 2006.

These conclusions are meant to take stock of the agreement reached by the three institutions.

1. Joint Undertaking for ITER

The European Parliament and Council agreed that:

- the ITER Joint Undertaking is to be considered as a Community agency for the purpose of the application of point 47 of the IIA;
- the European Parliament will be given responsibility for the discharge of the implementation of the budget of ITER Joint Undertaking

The European Parliament and Council acknowledged the Community contribution to ITER stemming from the 7th Framework Programme for Euratom (€ 986 million¹ for the period 2007-2011 as a maximum) as proposed by the Commission. While noting that the ITER project is planned to continue well beyond 2011, and the need to continue till 2041, the corresponding amounts for the years 2012 and 2013 are foreseen in the financial programming. The future financing will be part of the discussions on the next financial framework.

2. Agencies

With the aim of optimizing the functioning of existing agencies and the procedures applicable to the creation of new agencies, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agree to pursue an in depth discussion, in particular regarding a thorough cost/benefit assessment, including administrative costs, before the setting up of new agencies and the implementation of the review clauses foreseen in the specific regulations of the existing ones.

In this context, they express their willingness to work towards continuing and deepening the discussion on the further development of the procedure foreseen by Point 47 of the IIA.

These discussions will be pursued during the forthcoming Trilogues, the first being on 18 April 2007.

¹ out of an indicative total EU budget contribution to the Joint Undertaking for ITER and the development of fusion energy of EUR 1 290 million