

UDENRIGSMINISTERIET

Europaudvalget
EUU alm. del - Bilag 431
Offentligt

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og deres stedfortrædere

OMTRYKT 15/7-10
(fortrolighed ophævet)

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Bilag
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Journalnummer
400.C.2-0

Kontor
EUK

15. juni 2010

ORIENTERING

ITER Task Forcen

Til fortroligt underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges Videnskabsministeriets orientering vedt. arbejdet i ITER Task Forcen.

Materialet er ligeledes sendt til Folketingets Udvalg for Videnskab og Teknologi.



Lene Espersen

Folketingets Europaudvalg

Kopi: Folketingets udvalg for videnskab og teknologi

Vedrørende arbejdet i ITER Task Forcen

Som jeg tidligere har orienteret Folketingets Europaudvalg om, så har det spanske EU formandskab nedsat en ITER Task Force med henblik på at komme med løsninger på problemerne vedrørende ITER.

Formandskabet har fastlagt fire møder i Task Forcen, henholdsvis 3. juni, 8. juni, 21. juni og 25. juni. Da Task Forcen selvsagt ikke har en beslutningskompetence, men skal tilvejebringe forslag, der kan spilles ind i det formelle EU beslutningssystem, udarbejdes der ikke referater. I stedet drager formandskabet nogle konklusioner i skriftlig form fra møderne.

Jeg fremsender derfor til udvalgets orientering en kopi af formandskabets konklusioner fra første møde i Task Forcen den 3. juni 2010. Jeg vil også fremsende formandskabets konklusioner fra de efterfølgende møder, når disse er modtaget.

Med venlig hilsen

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SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

ITER Task Force 1st meeting 03/06/2010 – Brussels

As to the **terms of reference** for the Task Force, it was reaffirmed, in line with the Presidency summary of the Council ("Competitiveness") of 26 May 2010, that the discussions of the Task Force will not be of a formally conclusive nature but will feed into the work of the Council preparatory bodies. However, the ambition is to provide consensus input to the Council process.

Following the general discussion, the Chair concluded that the Task Force had reached agreement on the broad key elements of the solution to the ITER question:

- There is a clear long term political commitment to the project (which should be duly communicated to international Parties).
- Every measure should be taken for cost containment.
- For that purpose, the governance of the project has to be improved, i.a. by enhancing the cooperation between the International Organization and the domestic agencies.
- A paradigm shift is needed. Budget has followed design. From now on, design has to follow budget.
- The European contribution to the project has to be capped.
- A clear financing solution in the short term (present financial perspectives / 2007-2013) should be established.
- No "fresh funds" from Member States are envisaged.
- Information on relevant options for the short term funding (including redeployment/reprioritization and the possibility to use EIB instruments) should be presented by the Commission for discussion.
- A general solution for the full life of the project cannot be provided today, however, the short-term financial commitment together with a political long-term commitment should be sufficient to adopt the project baseline.
- A clear commitment to the ITER project is also expected from the international Parties (which in all evidence is presently the case).
- The European Parliament must be duly involved in the process. However, this is outside the scope of the Task Force.

In response, the Commission representative undertook to provide to the Task Force:

- by 8 June 2010 (9h00), an option paper, comprising several scenarios on the short-term funding (including transfers/redeployment and the EIB financing options), as well as further information on the international aspects concerned. Such scenarios would be for debate by the Task Force and without prejudice to the Commission's position on the matter.
- before 21 June 2010 reflections regarding the present-day and future legal status of F4E.
- by 21 June 2010, a comprehensive scenario (year-by-year financing needs) until "first plasma", as well as any reflections regarding improvements in the governance of ITER project.

The Commission services will also undertake to provide responses to the questions put forward by the DE delegation in writing, to be shared with the Task Force.

The **timetable** for the decision making process will be examined in detail at the next meeting. On a provisional basis, there is a broad understanding that the ITER Council meeting should be postponed till end of July. Prior to this, the Council should adopt conclusions to enable the Commission to approve the ITER baseline on behalf of EURATOM (such conclusions will be prepared by the Research Working Party, in coordination with the Budgetary Committee, and after the COREPER, the conclusions will be adopted by the Council as an "A" item).

Next meetings envisaged: 8 June, 21 June and 25 June.

The meeting of 8 June will start at 10h00 (thus giving delegations an hour to previously analyse the "option paper" presented by the Commission). It will possibly be a full day meeting.

The Presidency is examining the possibility to invite a representative of the EIB, as well as the Director of F4E, Dr. Briscoe.
