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KONKLUSIONER

ITER

Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges til fortrolig orientering formandskabets konklusioner fra det 2. og 3. møde i ITER Task Forcen.

Konklusionerne er ligeledes sendt til Udvalget for Videnskab og Teknologi.


Lene Espersen

Folketingets Europaudvalg

Kopi: Folketingets udvalg for videnskab og teknologi

Formandskabets konklusioner fra 2. og 3. møde i ITER Task Forcen

Jeg fremsender hermed formandskabets konklusioner fra det 2. og 3. møde i ITER Task Forcen til fortrolig orientering. Det skal bemærkes, at det af konklusionerne fremgår, at der er tale om udkast. Det var derfor min formodning, at formandskabet ville fremlægge sine endelige konklusioner i en ny version. Dette skete imidlertid ikke, hvorfor jeg fremsender de udkast, som der er modtaget fra formandskabet.

Formandskabet vil ikke udarbejde konklusioner fra det 4. møde i Task Forcen, da resultatet heraf er et udkast til rådskonklusioner vedrørende ITER. Jeg vedlægger en kopi heraf til fortrolig orientering.

Jeg skal desuden oplyse, at formandskabet i dag har oplyst, at det agter at sætte udkastet til rådskonklusioner på dagsordenen for møde i Coreper på onsdag den 30. juni. På mødet agter regeringen at tage et parlamentarisk forbehold vedrørende punktet.

Med venlig hilsen

Charlotte Sahl-Madsen

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DRAFT SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

ITER Task Force 2nd meeting 08/06/2010 – Brussels

The Task Force took note of the **Summary** of the first meeting of the Task Force of 3 June 2010 as presented by the Chair.

The Commission presented a **non-paper on ITER financing scenarios**. The Commission also informed the Task Force on contacts with the other ITER Parties with whom it was agreed to maintain the **ITER Council** on 17-18 June 2010 but without a decision item on ITER baseline. It is understood that an additional ITER Council should be held on 27-28 July 2010 and which should approve the baseline. Whilst the Commission had not committed to this scenario with the other Parties, the Commission representative stressed to the Task Force that in the Commission's assessment further postponement would be detrimental to Europe's credibility and could also have a negative impact on the other Parties' commitment to the project. The Commission also circulated a first set of answers to the questions put forward by DE delegation and supported by others.

Delegations welcomed the Commission non-paper as a substantive input to the process whilst also stressed that **further detailed technical information** would be needed as the basis of informed decisions on the concrete solution to the (short-term) ITER funding, including as regards the implications of the various funding options. Delegations considered broadly that the overall funding solution should be based on a "mix" of various options. In addition, delegations reiterated the need for cost containment (noting in particular the orientations of the F4E Governing Board in this respect) and improvements in the governance.

The Chair presented a **roadmap** to formalise the mandate for the Commission on ITER (in the form of Council conclusions). The Task Force acknowledged the roadmap as an ambitious plan to be taken as the basis of the work of the Task Force, whilst some delegations also noted the uncertainties involved, such as those linked to the internal decision-making processes in Member States as well as the involvement of the European Parliament, and that a discussion at Ministerial level might not necessarily be excluded.

DRAFT SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

ITER Task Force 3rd meeting 21/06/2010 – Brussels

Mr Frank BRISCOE, Director ad interim of F4E, gave a presentation on the **ITER cost estimates**. He elaborated on the history of the cost estimates, the reasons for cost increases, the time profiles of the estimates, as well as on action to contain costs. Upon delegations' queries on potential savings, he also discussed the linkages between the capping of costs and contingencies. It was noted that whilst the F4E estimates for the total financing needs for 2012-2013 were identical to those presented by the Commission, some discrepancies appeared concerning the year-by-year distribution and the payment profile.

In order to establish a **common base for the financing needs**, a room document was drawn up consolidating the figures presented so far to the Task Force. The document refers only to the commitment profile. The Commission undertook to elaborate, in close collaboration with F4E, a detailed payment profile. They will also work further on the possibility of adapting the procurement planning in order to modify the commitment and payment profiles, to reduce the gap before 2014 as much as possible, without delaying the project development. The outcome of these work (that is, the payment and –if savings are possible- the modified commitment profile), will be circulated to the delegations by Wednesday, the 23rd.

The Task Force discussed a draft document by the Presidency on "**Key elements for a consensus document on ITER**", on which basis the document will be further elaborated with a view to the 25 June 2010 meeting of the Task Force. Delegations largely agreed to the structure of the document whilst also expressing their specific preferences, notably as regards the sources for financing. For its part, the Commission maintained its position that that the Council (and Member States) should give more explicit commitments to the *financing* of ITER during the whole duration of the project, even if that financing has to be found under the ceiling of the EU budget.

The Commission also informed the Task Force on the meeting of **ITER Council** held on 18 June 2010 in Suzhou. In absence of a decision on the ITER baseline, the other Parties were not willing to discuss, notably, the ITER management issues. The Commission representative stressed the need to adopt the baseline at the additional ITER Council to be held on 27-28 July 2010 in Cadarache.

Next meeting of the Task Force: 25 June 2010.

**Draft Council conclusions on
ITER Status and possible way forward ¹**

1. Subject to the below conditions, the Council REAFFIRMS its strong commitment to the successful completion of the ITER project and ACKNOWLEDGES its estimated financing needs as stated in paragraph 5.
2. The Council COUNTS ON a clear commitment from the International Partners.
3. The Council TAKES NOTE of the Communication of 4 May 2010 from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "ITER status and possible way forward"² in response to the request of the Council of 16 November 2009 to examine and address the financing gap and related governance conditions concerning ITER.
4. The European contribution will be of 5/11 of the construction cost, of which 80% will be funded by EURATOM and 20% by France.

Cost control and containment

5. The latest estimate by the Fusion for Energy Joint Undertaking (F4E) for the European contribution to the construction phase of ITER (which includes the construction costs, the running costs and contingencies) is EUR 7.2 bn in 2008 value. Following the recommendation of the F4E Governing Board, the European contribution to that phase must be limited to an amount of EUR 6.6 bn in 2008 value. F4E is requested to present a plan detailing how these savings will be achieved, whilst ensuring that sufficient funds are reserved for contingencies.

¹ In the Task Force, a very large consensus was reached. The Commission representative did not accept paragraph 1. BG/CY/PL/PT and the Commission representatives expressed reservations on paragraph 13.

² Doc. 9424/10

Reporting and Review

10. F4E will report to the Council at least once a year on the progress achieved in implementing the cost containment and savings plan as well as on the performance and management of the Agency and the ITER project. It will also report once a year on the fulfilment of the scheduled activities within its annual budget. The Council will take these reports into consideration in the EU annual budgetary procedure. Each year, a part of the credits available could be put into reserve based on the decision of the budgetary authority.
11. The F4E Governing Board will appoint an independent expert who will assess the project progress on the basis of existing reports and will submit this opinion to the Governing Board and to the Competitiveness Council once a year.

Financial

12. In the short-term, additional commitment appropriations estimated at a maximum of EUR 1.4 bn, in current value, for 2012 and 2013 should come from an appropriate mix of financial sources. In order to meet these additional needs and on the basis of the above, the Commission will present in due course a proposal within the overall ceiling of the current Multiannual Financial Framework and based primarily on redeployment within heading 1A, first taking into account unused appropriations and then applying a flat-rate basis with appropriate adjustments. Exact amounts and modalities, pending budget availabilities, will be determined during the budgetary discussion.³

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13. Taking into account the above considerations, the Council **MANDATES** the Commission to approve the ITER project baseline.
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³ FR requested to add "during which the possibility of postponing commitments beyond 2013 will be considered".