



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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ATO 94**

NOTE

From : The Commission
To : Delegations
Subject : Information on ITER
- Presentation by the Commission

Delegations will find, in annex, an information note from the Commission services on the above-mentioned topic.

ITER

Information note from the Commission (Competitiveness Council, 25 September 2009)

The objective guiding the Commission's action is to ensure that the ITER project succeeds at reasonable cost and with acceptable risks. A number of boundary conditions need to be met to move the project forward. In particular, a credible cost assessment including a cost containment plan is needed, and a sound management of the project both at the international level and at the European level is to be ensured.

With the view to establishing these conditions, several developments have occurred since the last information provided to the Council (Competitiveness) on 29 May 2009, specifically:

- Progress has been achieved on the assessment of the cost estimates. This is mainly due to the increase in the level of maturity of the design of the machine which allows decreasing the ranges of uncertainty of the estimates;
- An independent assessment of the cost estimates of the buildings has been launched with conclusions expected at the end of October 2009. The buildings represent a major factor in the increase of ITER total cost;
- Measures for cost containment have been pursued. These include rationalization of the procurement sharing amongst the Parties and value engineering analyses to identify options for reducing the costs;
- The ITER Council of June has launched a management assessment of the ITER Organization. The conclusions are expected at the ITER Council in November.
- The management assessment of the European Domestic Agency – "*Fusion for energy*" (F4E) has been commissioned by the F4E Governing Board in July. The conclusions are expected by mid-October.

Regarding the advancement of the project, the ITER Council of June endorsed, as a working basis for development of the project baseline¹, the phased approach to the completion of ITER construction with a target of the end of 2018 for First Plasma while maintaining first operation with Deuterium/Tritium fuels in 2026. The phased approach means that the primary components of the ITER machine will be assembled and tested together before the progressive installation of in-vessel components continues. The ITER Council also requested the establishment of a realistic schedule and an estimate of the resources needed to complete ITER construction.

¹ This means the scope, schedule and cost

The International Organization and the Domestic Agencies are now working together to develop a realistic schedule with well founded estimates of the resources needed to complete ITER construction. These plans will take full account of the capacities and realistic delivery expectations of the various Domestic Agencies and will integrate all their inter-dependent actions with those of ITER Organization.

In order to take stock of the information available and to reflect on the way forward, the Swedish Presidency has announced a meeting at experts' level.

The outcome of this joint work is expected to allow a decision on the ITER baseline at the ITER Council of November. The establishment of the baseline is an essential step for a sound management of the project and allow it to move forward.
