

**Statement of Dr Janez Potocnik European
Commissioner for Science and Research On the
occasion of the Ministerial Meeting for ITER Moscow
28th June 2005**

- Mr Moderator, distinguished colleagues and friends:

- May I first express my thanks to Dr Romyantsev, Mr Borovkov and all our Russian friends for taking the initiative to convene this meeting and for making us feel so welcome in Moscow. Not for the first time in ITER, the Russian Federation has taken a key initiative at just the right time.

- I should also like to thank Minister Nakayama for his positive intervention today and, more generally, for the highly constructive spirit with which he and his colleagues have approached our extensive bilateral exchanges over the last few months. I also wish to express my respect for the honourable manner in which the most sensitive stages of this process was handled. Indeed all the Parties represented here have, through their patience and sustained support to the process, contributed to the resolution that we can achieve together today.

- On the basis of Minister Nakayama's statement and in accordance with the Joint Paper agreed by the Chief Negotiators

for the European Union and Japan in Geneva on 5th May, I am able to confirm the~ readiness of EU to take the role of Host to the ITER project at the proposed site of Cadarache in southern France.

- The EU is well aware of the important task it has in front of it as the Host of ITER. I can confirm that the EU will be fully ready to assume its responsibilities under the Joint Paper and under the Agreement.

- This means that the EU is committed to playing its full part in this unprecedented international scientific co-operation, throughout its entire duration. This includes:
 - 0 the provision of the necessary infrastructure for the site;
 - 0 the support to the project management and
 - 0 the making available of the agreed resources, through the European Domestic Agency that is being set up in Spain.

- I shall therefore be happy to subscribe on behalf of the EU to the proposed draft Joint Declaration which expresses the political consensus that we have now achieved.

- The time has now come to look forward. The resolution of the siting of ITER and our common understandings set the scene for bringing to conclusion the international agreement. Embarking

together on the construction of ITER project we shall be building a true partnership for the rapid realisation of the promise of fusion energy to the benefit of all mankind.

- But our action today has implications beyond that of establishing fusion energy. It is also an expression of mutual confidence in our capacities to face up to the scientific, technical and political challenges that will occur in the course of this first-of-a-kind true international science cooperation among the leading nations of the world.

- With ITER we are establishing a model of global co-operation to address the increasingly global nature of the challenges confronting today's society.

- Before concluding, I should like to add our expression of sincere gratitude to the IAEA - fittingly represented here today by Deputy Director General Burkart - for the support that the Agency had provided to all the ITER activities to date and for the wisdom and patience with which DDG Burkart has moderated the series of high level meetings over the last two years that has brought us to today's successful resolution.

Mr Moderator, the ED looks forward to working with its Partners towards the conclusion of the Agreement and the start

of ITER construction at the earliest practicable date, so that we can together realise our common goal to realise Fusion energy.

- Thank you.