

## ITER: Japanese and Europeans still at a Dead End

**23/03** 13:14 Japan and the European Commission completed Tuesday in Tokyo of the bilateral discussions on the discussed subject of the experiment of nuclear fusion ITER without managing to leave the dead end, but making the report of a necessary continuation of the dialogue in the common interest.

"We must continue the dialogue in the interest of the two parties", supported the general manager responsible for Research at the Commission, the Greek Achilleas Mitsos.

The European delegation had talks on Friday with Japanese specialists in nuclear power and energy as well as representatives of employers and Ministries for Sciences and Technology, Economy, Trade and Industry, and Affairs Foreign.

"As you know it, each of two parties (Japan and EU) thinks of hosting the ITER project. And each party reiterated its positions", underlined Mr. Mitsos at the time of a press conference.

"We nevertheless discussed the means so that the two parties leave gaining process of negotiation within the framework of a widened program, including/understanding ITER but not only", continued the European senior official.

A person in charge for the Japanese Ministry for Sciences and Technologies, present at the bilateral meetings, made the same report as his European interlocutor.

"We had interesting and honest discussions. But the two parties camped on their respective positions ", indicated the Japanese person in charge.

"We are agreed to continue the dialogue on the question, but we could not go today further", they recognized.

The EU, Russia, China, the United States, South Korea and Japan take part in the ambitious project of international experimental thermonuclear experiment (ITER) whose objective in the long term is to produce on Earth the mechanisms of fusion at work in stars.

But the process has stumbled for several months on the choice of the site, between the free-European candidature of Cadarache and that of Rokkasho-Mura, in the north of Japan. It is currently completely blocked.

EU, Moscow and Peking support the French candidature, while Washington and Seoul prefer the Japanese site.

Tokyo proposed to share the project between Japan and France, a solution categorically rejected by Europeans.

Questioned on a possible dead end of the negotiations, Mr. Mitsos answered: "I would not employ the word "impasse" because there are prospects in the discussions. But if you await immediate answers, then yes, I would say that there is for the moment a "dead end ".

"We did not fix a limiting date for the negotiations but we are in a hurry because we do not want to miss the carriage (opportunity) related to Iter", confirmed Mr. Mitsos.

"A decision must be made quickly", he urged.

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