



Japan hopes for rapid accord with EU on nuclear reactor

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Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Monday that he hopes to resolve a dispute with the European Union on a revolutionary nuclear reactor as soon as possible.

Koizumi discussed the row over plans for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) with EU leaders during a half-day summit in Luxembourg.

"We agreed that we should engage in efforts so that an earliest possible agreement can be achieved," said the Japanese leader at a joint press conference with EU leaders including foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

The 25-member EU wants ITER to be built in France, and has threatened to go it alone unless Japan drops its rival bid, leaving six-party talks in deadlock for months.

The United States and South Korea support Japan's offer to build ITER in Rokkasho-mura, a northern Japanese village near the Pacific Ocean, while the EU, China and Russia back the bid of the southern French town of Cadarache.

The EU says it still hopes that an agreement can be hammered out by June, but has warned that it could go ahead with the project on the French site without Japan if necessary.

[Further details - EU Presidency site](#)

[EU-Japan summit - further details](#)

[EU-Japan relations](#) [ITER - International Fusion Energy Organisation](#)

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