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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	6286/18 RECH 46 ATO 10 COMPET 74
Subject:	Draft Council conclusions on the reformed ITER project - Adoption

1. The Commission has published a communication on EU contribution to a reformed ITER project¹ on 14 June 2017 in which it seeks support from the European Parliament and the Council to approve the new baseline *ad referendum* on behalf of Euratom, at an ITER Council meeting at ministerial level.
2. The Presidency proposed draft text of the Council conclusions which was discussed by the Joint Research/Atomic Questions Working Party in January and February 2018. A broad consensus on the text in the ANNEX to this document has been reached. However, the LU delegation has a general reservation on the whole text.

¹ Doc. 10434/17 + ADD1.

3. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to confirm the consensus and to recommend to the Council to adopt, as an "A" item, the draft conclusions as set out in the ANNEX to this note.

Changes to document 6286/18 are marked in ~~strike through~~ for deletions and **bold underlined** for a new text.

DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE REFORMED ITER PROJECT

1. The Council TAKES NOTE of the Communication of 14 June 2017 from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council entitled "EU contribution to a reformed ITER project"¹.
2. The Council UNDERLINES the **fundamental** importance of the ITER project in the European fusion roadmap and the need to ensure effective coordination between the ITER activities and the activities of EUROfusion in view of achieving the commercial deployment of fusion power in a cost efficient way.
3. The Council RECALLS that it set in 2010 a limit for the European contribution to the project for the construction phase at EUR 6.6 billion (in 2008 prices)² and REGRETS the past significant cost increases and delays in the completion and delivery of some in-kind contributions. Therefore, the Council CALLS on all stakeholders to make a rigorous commitment to a successful, cost efficient and on-schedule ~~time~~ completion of the ITER project within budget and STRESSES the importance to stay strictly within the new baseline.
4. The Council ACKNOWLEDGES the improvements on the project governance and the efforts of the new management in the ITER Organization and in Fusion for Energy and WELCOMES the improvements brought to the project to put it back on track in line with the *staged approach* which forms the basis of the new ~~project~~ baseline. The Council also WELCOMES the progress on the ITER site and the achievement of the milestones for 2016 and 2017.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on EU contribution to a reformed ITER project; Commission staff working document on the ITER project status accompanying the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on EU contribution to a reformed ITER project (10434/17 + ADD1).

² Council Conclusion on ITER status and possible way forward (doc. 11902/10).

5. The Council URGES that the components and other related activities essential to achieve First Plasma in 2025 and the limited additional Final Installation activities in the operation phase from January 2026 until the start of Deuterium-Tritium Operation in 2035 are kept within the limits of available resources and in line with the new baseline.
6. The Council CALLS on all stakeholders to pay utmost attention to both risk management and improved cost control, including appropriate provisioning for risks and contingencies so as to avoid any further delays in the future. The Council URGES the management of the ITER Organization and Fusion for Energy to adopt further cost containment ~~measure~~ and risk reduction measures, also with respect to other activities than the in-kind contribution to the ITER project, and RECALLS that design should follow budget with full respect of the intended purpose of the facility.
7. The Council REITERATES that the independent annual assessments of the progress of ~~the~~ ITER ~~will~~ **have to** be continued and intensified with a focus on the performance and project management, including cost containment, schedule project control as well as risk management. The Council CALLS FOR a consistent implementation of the respective recommendations of the assessments. The Council also STRESSES that the reporting duties of Fusion for Energy as laid down in the 2010 Council conclusions remain unchanged.
8. The Council REQUESTS that Fusion for Energy, as the Domestic Agency responsible for the European contribution to ITER, delivers the European in-cash and in-kind contributions needed to achieve First Plasma in 2025 in line with the new ~~project~~ baseline **and** within the limits of available resources. Furthermore, the Council also REQUESTS that the delivery of all in-cash and in-kind contributions to achieve First Plasma takes place in collaboration between the ITER Organization and all Domestic Agencies.
9. The Council RECOMMENDS that Fusion for Energy considers ways to address the different levels of industrial participation of the different Member States in the implementation of the ITER project, **including** by increased information on procurements.

10. The Council TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION of the ~~Member States'~~ candidacy of Spain and Croatia for the site of the future IFMIF-DONES³ project ~~while it~~ and, at the same time EMPHASISES the need to maintain the successful cooperation with Japan within a Broader Approach and its follow-up.
11. The Council NOTES that the European contribution for the construction of the ITER project will be of 5/11 of the construction cost of which 80% will be funded by Euratom and 20% by France. The cost distribution will change in the operation phase, with the European contribution being 34% of the estimated costs as provided in the 2006 ITER Agreement.
12. The Council REAFFIRMS the continued commitment of Euratom to the successful completion of the ITER project and will ENDEAVOUR to make available resources within the limits of the next Multiannual Financial Framework without prejudging any subsequent Multiannual Financial Framework negotiations, which will determine the details of future funding.
13. The Council CALLS for a clear commitment from all international ITER Parties to fully support the completion of the project under the new baseline in line with the decisions of the ITER Council on 21-22 June 2017.
14. Subject to the above considerations and requirements, the Council MANDATES the Commission to approve the new ITER ~~project~~ baseline on behalf of Euratom at an ITER Council meeting at Ministerial level ~~to be held, if possible, in 2018.~~

³ IFMIF-DONES stands for International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility - DEMO Oriented Neutron Source.