



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 2007/198/Euratom establishing the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy and conferring advantages upon it' {COM(2013)607}.

The Commission shares the Senát's view that the investments in energy research, particularly in the field of nuclear fusion, can play an important role in decreasing the carbon intensity of the European economy. The lack of CO₂ emissions from a fusion power plant could greatly contribute to the long-term EU energy strategy and to the long-term decarbonisation of the energy system in a safe, efficient and secure way.

The Commission agrees with the Senát's position that the path to the commercial use of nuclear fusion is long and difficult. ITER is not only a major step towards the demonstration of fusion as a sustainable energy source but also a research project with significant innovation and industrial dimensions in the manufacture of high tech equipment. The production of ITER components by European manufacturers is already having a positive impact on Europe's industrial competitiveness and job creation. For this reason, the Commission agrees with the Senát that it is important that Czech companies seize the opportunities that ITER can offer in terms of industrial development in particular in the generation of innovative technologies and products, and indeed encourages the participation of Czech entities in what can probably be considered as one of the biggest and most important research projects in the world.

The Commission welcomes the Senát's support to the ITER project and the call addressed to the European Union to ensure the necessary financial support for the Joint Undertaking for ITER. The European Commission adopted this proposal with the objective to provide the basis for the necessary financing of the Euratom contribution to the ITER project for the next years.

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
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The Commission hopes that the Senát will remain committed to the development of the ITER project and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*