



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.2.2019
C(2019) 1323 final*

*Mr Jaroslav KUBERA
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE*

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(2018) 445 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senát's support for the ITER project and recognition of its multiple benefits for the EU.

The Commission takes good note of the Senát's call for synergies with other Union programmes and for the increased involvement of Czech research institutions, universities, and the private sector in ITER activities. ITER is recognized as a key facility in the "European Research Roadmap to the Realisation of Fusion Energy"¹, which has been adopted by the European consortium of entities engaged in fusion research and development (EUROfusion) and which sets out a path towards the demonstration of electricity production through fusion in this century. EUROfusion's research activities are conducted under and co-financed from the Euratom Research Programmes. These elements, in addition to close collaboration between EUROfusion and the Fusion for Energy Joint Undertaking provide an effective framework to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the links between different strands of fusion efforts in Europe, including the European participation in the ITER project.

Fusion for Energy executes the European contribution to ITER through awarding procurements and grants for ITER-related components and services. Research organisations and businesses from all over the European Union participate. The Commission will certainly welcome even greater participation of Czech entities in such contracts.

¹https://www.euro-fusion.org/fileadmin/user_upload/EUROfusion/Documents/2018_Research_roadmap_long_version_01.pdf

The Commission generally concurs with the Senát's views on the importance of developing energy infrastructure in the European Union. This is one of the European Union energy policy priorities as promoted and pursued by the European Commission in the Connecting Europe Facility programme. The Commission proposes to continue funding this programme in the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. At the same time, the Commission would like to recall that the ITER project aims at constructing an experimental facility, which will not yet deliver electricity to the grid.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the Commission*