



Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2009/2187(DEC)	Procedure completed
2008 discharge: European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control		01/10/2009
		PPE MATHIEU HOUILLON Véronique	
		Shadow rapporteur S&D STAVRAKAKIS Georgios Verts/ALE STAES Bart	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2994	16/02/2010
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Budget	ŠEMETA Algirdas	

Key events			
23/09/2009	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(2009)1089	Summary
12/11/2009	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/03/2010	Vote in committee		Summary
26/03/2010	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0094/2010	
21/04/2010	Debate in Parliament		
05/05/2010	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/05/2010	Decision by Parliament	T7-0120/2010	Summary
05/05/2010	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/09/2010	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2009/2187(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure

Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/7/01459

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		SEC(2009)1089	23/09/2009	EC	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		N7-0013/2010 OJ C 310 18.12.2009, p. 0001	22/10/2009	CofA	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		N7-0036/2009 OJ C 269 10.11.2009, p. 0001	10/11/2009	CofA	
Document attached to the procedure		05829/2010	01/02/2010	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE430.555	02/02/2010	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE439.372	03/03/2010	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0094/2010	26/03/2010	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0120/2010	05/05/2010	EP	Summary

Final act

[Decision 2010/552](#)
[OJ L 252 25.09.2010, p. 0223](#) Summary

2008 discharge: European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy

PURPOSE: to present the final accounts of the European Joint Undertaking for ITER for the year 2008.

CONTENT: this document sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the Joint Undertaking for ITER for 2008. It notes that the final budget of the joint undertaking was EUR 149.8 millions, of which 81.5% was due to a Community contribution.

To recall, the The ITER International Fusion Energy Organisation was set up in October 2007 for an initial period of 35 years to implement the ITER project, which aims to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy. The members are Euratom, China, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the USA. The European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy was established in March 2007 for a period of 35 years. The members of the Joint Undertaking are the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) represented by the European Commission, the Member States of Euratom and other countries which have concluded cooperation agreements with Euratom in the field of controlled nuclear fusion and have expressed their wish to become members (at 31 December 2008: Switzerland).

The tasks of the Joint Undertaking are):

- to provide the contribution of Euratom to the ITER International Fusion Energy Organisation;
- to provide the contribution of Euratom to the ?broader approach activities? (complementary joint fusion research activities) with Japan for the rapid realisation of fusion energy;
- to prepare and coordinate a programme of activities in preparation for the construction of a demonstration fusion reactor and related facilities including the International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility.

With regard to staff, the joint undertaking (whose seat is in Barcelona) has 145 posts in the establishment plan of which 101 were occupied and 56 other posts (contractual, seconded national experts, employment agency staff) being a total of 157 staff doing operational, administrative and support tasks, or mixed tasks.

In 2008, ITER concentrated on the following activities :

ITER International Agreement: in the framework of this Agreement, the following activities took place:

- 11 procurements and 16 grants were launched and 3 procurement arrangements were concluded with the ITER Organisation;
- a prototype superconductor for the ITER poloidal field coils made of niobium-titanium was successfully tested;
- sub-scale pre-compression rings tested beyond the values required by ITER;
- a poloidal sector model of the vacuum vessel was completed;
- the manufacture of a full-scale shield prototype representative of the blanket module;
- the mock-ups of the wall facing directly the plasma were successfully tested under a high heat flux;
- the qualification of the divertor vertical target was achieved;
- a test facility for the demonstration of the remote handling operations on the divertor was completed;

- high power tests on the first industrial prototype of the 2 MW coaxial cavity gyrotron;
- Cadarache site: the area was levelled and the main platform was prepared for excavations and construction.

Broader Approach Agreement: the following activities took place:

- JT-60SA tokamak: a re baselining exercise was completed whereby cost savings were obtained while maintaining the device performance;
- IFMIF/EVED (International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility) programme: several design activities were advanced and all major aspects of the accelerator system are now fixed;
- FERC programme: the interfaces between the building and the supercomputer have been defined and benchmark codes established.

2008 discharge: European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Véronique MATHIEU (EPP, FR) on discharge to be granted to the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy, calling on the European Parliament to grant the Director of the Undertaking discharge in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2008.

Noting that the Undertaking's annual accounts for the financial year 2008 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, MEPs approve the closure of its accounts. However, they make a number of recommendations that need to be taken into account when the discharge is granted, in addition to the general recommendations that appear in the draft resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies (see [2010/2007\(INI\)](#)):

- carryover of appropriations: Members note that the Court of Auditors identified a surplus of EUR 57.6 million. Part of that surplus was carried over to the 2009 financial year. They note the Joint Undertaking's reply to the effect that the under-spending to which the Court of Auditors refers stemmed from the fact that this was the Joint Undertaking's first year of financial autonomy from the Commission;
- commitment irregularities: Members note that, in six cases considered by the Court of Auditors, the Joint Undertaking made budget commitments only after it had already entered into legal obligations. They call accordingly on the Joint Undertaking to comply with the Financial Regulation in this respect as well;
- ITER Financial Regulation: Members call for a number of specific changes need to be made to the ITER Financial Regulation, including as regards exceptions to the budgetary principles, the role of the Commission's Internal Audit Service, late payment of members' contributions, the rules on the award of grants and the transitional provisions;
- internal control systems: MEPs expressly recommend that the Joint Undertaking carry out further work on documenting IT processes and activities and analysing IT risks. They stress, furthermore, that ITER has appointed a Data Protection Officer and the necessary steps have been taken to further develop the Business Continuity and Data Recovery Plan. Members conclude that the Joint Undertaking has a permanently high level of cash holdings (EUR 58 980 569,87 in 2008). They ask the Commission to examine what scope there is for introducing needs-orientated management of cash holdings at the Joint Undertaking, and what changes of approach are necessary in order to keep the Joint Undertaking's cash holdings permanently as low as possible.

2008 discharge: European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy

The European Parliament adopted by 544 votes to 31, with 64 abstentions, a decision on discharge to be granted to the Director of the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2008.

Furthermore, Parliament adopted a resolution with observations which are an integral part of the decision to grant discharge.

The main points are as follows:

- carryover of appropriations: Parliament notes that the Court of Auditors identified a surplus of EUR 57.6 million. Part of that surplus was carried over to the 2009 financial year. It notes the Joint Undertaking's reply to the effect that the under-spending to which the Court of Auditors refers stemmed from the fact that this was the Joint Undertaking's first year of financial autonomy from the Commission;
- commitment irregularities: Parliament notes that in six cases considered by the Court of Auditors, the Joint Undertaking made budget commitments only after it had already entered into legal obligations. It calls, accordingly, on the Joint Undertaking to comply with the Financial Regulation in this respect as well;
- ITER Financial Regulation: Parliament calls for a number of specific changes to be made to the ITER Financial Regulation, including as regards exceptions to the budgetary principles, the role of the Commission's Internal Audit Service, late payment of members' contributions, the rules on the award of grants and the transitional provisions;
- internal control systems: Parliament expressly recommends that the Joint Undertaking carries out further work on documenting IT processes and activities and analysing IT risks. It stresses, furthermore, that ITER has appointed a Data Protection Officer and the necessary steps have been taken to further develop the Business Continuity and Data Recovery Plan. Parliament concludes that the Joint Undertaking has a permanently high level of cash holdings (EUR 58 980 569,87 in 2008). It asks the Commission to examine what scope there is for introducing needs-orientated management of cash holdings at the Joint Undertaking, and what changes of approach are necessary in order to keep the Joint Undertaking's cash holdings permanently as low as possible.

Noting that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2008 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament approves the closure of the Joint Undertaking's accounts. However, it makes a number of recommendations that need to be taken into account when the discharge is granted, in addition to the general recommendations that appear in the draft resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies (see [2010/2007\(INI\)](#) adopted in parallel).

2008 discharge: European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy for the financial year 2008.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2010/552/EU of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy for the financial year 2008.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of the Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy for the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2008.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 5 May 2010 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 05/05/2010).

A parallel decision, adopted on the same day, approves the closure of this Agency's accounts.