

Procedure file

Basic information		
NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	2011/0046(NLE)	Procedure completed
Euratom Framework Programme 2012-2013: nuclear research and training activities		
Repealed by 2011/0400(NLE)		
Subject 3.50.02.02 Euratom framework programme, research and training programmes		

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed	
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		11/05/2011	
		PPE BŘEZINA Jan		
		Shadow rapporteur		
		S&D HERCZOG Edit		
		ALDE VĂLEAN Adina-Ioana		
		Verts/ALE RIVASI Michèle		
		ECR TOŠENOVSKÝ Evžen		
		EFD TZAVELA Niki		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
	BUDG Budgets		14/04/2011	
		ALDE HAGLUND Carl		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date	
	Environment	3139	19/12/2011	
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3104	28/06/2011	
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	3094	30/05/2011	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner		
	Research and Innovation	GEOGHEGAN-QUINN Máire		

Key events			
07/03/2011	Legislative proposal published	COM(2011)0072	Summary
24/03/2011	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/05/2011	Debate in Council	3094	Summary

27/06/2011	Debate in Council		
28/06/2011	Debate in Council	3104	
06/10/2011	Vote in committee		Summary
17/10/2011	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0360/2011	
16/11/2011	Debate in Parliament		
17/11/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
17/11/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0509/2011	Summary
19/12/2011	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
19/12/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/02/2012	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2011/0046(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consultation of Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Repealed by 2011/0400(NLE)
Legal basis	Euratom Treaty A 007
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/7/05611

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2011)0204	07/03/2011	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal		COM(2011)0072	07/03/2011	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE469.877	09/08/2011	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE472.074	13/09/2011	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE469.793	22/09/2011	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0360/2011	17/10/2011	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0509/2011	17/11/2011	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2012)29	11/01/2012	EC	

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Euratom Framework Programme 2012-2013: nuclear research and training activities

PURPOSE: to adopt a multiannual framework programme for nuclear research and training activities (Framework Programme (2012-2013)?) for the period from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: joint national and European efforts in the area of research and training are essential to promote and ensure economic growth and the well-being of citizens in Europe. Under Article 7 of the Euratom Treaty, the Euratom Framework Programme is the Community's main instrument for supporting and complementing Member States' activities in nuclear research and development (R&D). The existing provisions are contained in Council Decision 2006/970/Euratom on the Euratom Framework Programme and they will expire at the end of 2011.

The proposal is for the adoption of a Council decision concerning Euratom's Framework Programme for 2012-2013.

This Framework Programme is part of a legislative package that contains proposals for decisions for the Framework Programme itself, two Specific Programmes (for [direct](#) and [indirect](#) actions), and the [Rules for Participation](#).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: in accordance with Article 21 of the Implementing Rules for the Financial Regulation (Commission Regulation N° 2342/2002), the Commission has prepared an ex ante evaluation. Since this proposal aims to continue the activities of the Euratom Framework Programme for 2012-13 under the same financial perspectives, the requirement for an Impact Assessment has been waived.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 7 of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). The added value of Euratom involvement in nuclear research is intimately linked to cross-border effects, economies of scale, and contributing to the resolution of market failures. Euratom projects in fission, fusion and radiation protection can allow research to achieve the required 'critical mass', while lowering commercial risk and leveraging private investment. Euratom actions also play a key role in transferring nuclear skills and knowledge across frontiers, helping to foster excellence in research and innovation.

CONTENT: the overall aim of the proposal is to ensure the continuation of EU-funded research and training activities in nuclear science and technology during the years 2012-13. The Euratom Framework Programme is also crucial if Europe is to maximise the return on investment in ITER which has now entered its construction phase and relies on the continued support of Europe's fusion energy research programme. In addition, both nuclear fission and fusion are identified in the SET-Plan as energy technologies which Europe must develop in order to meet its energy objectives.

The Euratom Framework Programme for 2012-13 contains broadly the same scientific, technical and strategic objectives and uses the same fundingschemes as the current Euratom FP7 programme (2007-2011). Nonetheless, the programme has evolved over the last five years, and must take into account the results of recent research and the new policy context and research landscape in Europe. Regarding policy, the most significant development has been the adoption and endorsement of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) as part of a broad portfolio approach to addressing future energy challenges. The Framework Programme (2012-2013) will cover Community research, technological development, international cooperation, dissemination of technical information, exploitation activities and training, to be set out in the two specific programmes.

The broad objectives for the Euratom Framework Programme for the years 2012-13 are:

- in the area of fusion energy research, to develop the technology for a safe, sustainable, environmentally responsible and economically viable energy source;
- in the area of nuclear fission and radiation protection, to enhance the safety, resource efficiency and cost-effectiveness of nuclear fission and other uses of radiation in industry and medicine, and to enhance nuclear security (nuclear safeguards, non-proliferation, combating illicit trafficking and nuclear forensics).

Budget for Euratom Framework Programme 2012-2013 (including ITER): the draft appropriations initially provided for nuclear research in the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2007-2013 (MFF) are insufficient owing to the substantial cost increase of the ITER project. The cost increase of the ITER project was the subject of an in-depth assessment in the Commission Communication 'ITER status and possible way forward'. If no decision were taken on the increase of budget for ITER, Euratom's contribution to ITER would be limited to the appropriations envisaged for this purpose in the MFF, which would as a consequence prevent Euratom from fulfilling its legal obligations under the ITER agreement.

In its conclusions of 12 July 2010, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to ITER, acknowledged its increased financing needs and set out a number of guidelines on cost containment and management. The Council agreed on a EUR 6.6 billion limit of the European contribution to the construction phase of ITER until 2020. This includes EUR 1.4 billion during period of 2012-2013. The Council also mandated the Commission to support the adoption of the ITER Baseline, which prompted the Commission's proposal to amend the Multiannual Financial Framework, to address additional financing needs of ITER

At the extraordinary ITER Council meeting of 28 July 2010 the Baseline was adopted. Euratom's support was given ad referendum. The European Parliament and the Council are still to approve the Commission's proposed amendments.

Following Commission's proposal to amend the MFF, the Council reached an agreement in November 2010 on the use of existing margins of the 2010 budget and redeployment within the MFF and 7th EU Research Framework Programme to cover the additional ITER needs at the level of EUR 1.3 billion, i.e. 100 million short of the needs of EUR 1.4 billion acknowledged by the Council conclusions of 12 July 2010. The reduction of EUR 100 million for the period 2012-2013 does not contradict, nor cancel, the Council's commitment to an overall European contribution to the ITER construction costs at the level of EUR 6.6 billion.

In the context of the conciliation procedure for the 2011 budget and the related discussion on the flexibility instrument, the budgetary authority did not conclude an agreement on additional European funding for ITER. Therefore, a decision on that matter, based on the Commission's

proposal will have to be taken as soon as possible during 2011. The Commission proposes that, in these circumstances, the legislative process concerning proposals for Euratom FP for 2012-13 will be carried out in parallel to the continuing discussion on the budget for ITER and the 2012 budget. Agreement on additional funding will allow for swift adoption of the Euratom research programme in 2011, a decision that will be important in view of maintaining Euratom's support for exploitation of nuclear facilities such as JET as well as JRC direct actions.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: the maximum amount for the implementation of the Framework Programme (2012-2013) shall be EUR 2 560 270 000. This amount shall be distributed as follows (in EUR): (i) for the specific programme, to be carried out by means of indirect actions: fusion energy research 2 208 809 000; nuclear fission and radiation protection 118 245 000; (ii) for the specific programme, to be carried out by means of direct actions: nuclear activities of the JRC 233 216 000.

Euratom Framework Programme 2012-2013: nuclear research and training activities

Following a public debate, the Council took note of a progress report submitted by the Presidency on the proposal for extending, for a two-year period, the current European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) framework programme, which expires at the end of 2011. A number of delegations asked to continue efforts in order to achieve an agreement on the proposal as soon as possible.

The proposal will extend the Euratom programme in order to align it with the end of the EU's current financial cycle in 2013. Euratom programmes are limited by the Euratom Treaty to five years, whereas the general 7th framework programme for research, which runs until end 2013, lasts for seven years.

Euratom Framework Programme 2012-2013: nuclear research and training activities

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy adopted the report by Jan BREZINA (EPP, CZ) on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for nuclear research and training activities (2012-2013).

It recommended that the European Parliament made some amendments to the Commission proposal. The committee considers that the prime reference amount set in the legislative proposal is not compatible with the ceiling of Heading 1a of the current Multiannual Financial Framework 2007- 2013 (MFF). It takes note of the Commission proposal to revise the current MFF in order to accommodate the additional unforeseen funding for ITER for the years 2012-2013, and it is willing to enter into negotiations with the other arm of the budgetary authority with a view to reaching a swift agreement on the financing of the Euratom research programme by the end of 2011. Members recall their opposition to any form of redeployment from the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013) as proposed in the Commission proposal.

The main amendments to the proposal are as follows:

Nuclear safety: the report states that the improvement of nuclear safety and, where relevant, security aspects, should be prioritised given the possible cross-border impact of nuclear incidents. In view of the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan resulting from the earthquake and tsunamis of 11 March 2011, additional research work in the field of nuclear fission safety is necessary in order to reassure Union citizens that the safety of nuclear facilities based in the Union continues to meet the highest international standards. Such additional work requires an increase in the budget allocation for nuclear fission.

Additional funding of ITER: an agreement on additional funding of ITER solely through transfers of unused 2011 margins of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and without redeployments from the Seventh EU Framework Programme (2007-2013) to the Framework Programme (2012-2013) would allow for swift adoption of the programme in 2011.

A recital states that to accommodate the Framework Programme (2012-2013) in the MFF for the years 2012 and 2013, it will be necessary to amend the MFF by increasing the ceiling of Heading 1a. If no other 2011 MFF margins are available to be transferred in 2012 and 2013, the Flexibility Instrument, as provided for in point 27 of the IIA, should be mobilised.

For the 2014-2020 MFF, the financial resources dedicated to the ITER project should be fixed for the whole programming period so that any over-running of the costs beyond the EU share of EUR 6.6 billion for the ITER construction period, currently planned to be finalised in 2020, should be financed outside the MFF ceilings ('ring fencing').

Framework Programme: the report stresses the need to place particular emphasis on nuclear safety, security and radiation protection.

It adds that the Framework Programme (2012-2013) shall contribute to implementing the SET-plan. Its actions should take into account the Strategic Research Agenda of the three existing European technology platforms on nuclear energy: SNETP, IGDTP and MELODI. Members consider that more emphasis could be put on the need for coherence between the research and training activities to be pursued in 2012-2013 and the strategic research agendas of three major European cooperative initiatives which have been launched under the 7th Euratom framework program: the European Sustainable Nuclear Industrial Initiative under SET-Plan (encompassing the Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform ? SNETP - and the Implementing Geological Disposal Technology Platform - IGDTP) and the Multidisciplinary European Low-Dose Initiative (MELODI).

Funding: the maximum amount for the implementation of the Framework Programme (2012-2013) shall be EUR 2 100270 000 (rather than EUR 2 560270 000). This amount shall be distributed as follows:

- fusion energy research EUR 1 748 809 000;
- nuclear fission, especially safety, improving the management of nuclear waste and radiation protection EUR 118 245 000;
- nuclear activities of the JRC relating to nuclear safety, environmental protection and decommissioning EUR 233 216 000.

Special attention shall be paid to the development of contractual arrangements that reduce the risk of failure to perform as well as the reallocation of risks and costs over time.

Monitoring, assessment and review: Member States and the Commission shall establish a review of professional qualifications, training and skills in the nuclear field in the Union, which gives an overall picture of the current situation and enable appropriate solutions to be identified and implemented.

Annex: on nuclear fission and radiation protection, the report states that special attention should be given to long-lived nuclear waste when decommissioning outdated systems. It stresses continued support for the retention and development of qualified personnel required to maintain the nuclear independence of the Union and consistently ensure, and improve the level of, nuclear safety. It is crucial to keep nuclear expertise in the Union, as regards radioprotection and the dismantling of nuclear facilities, as nuclear energy will play a key role in the Union's energy mix, including decommissioning and long-life waste-management activities.

Lastly, the committee states that the management of European research funding should be more trust-based and risk-tolerant towards participants at all stages of the projects, while ensuring accountability, with flexible Union rules to improve alignment, where possible, with existing different national regulations and recognised accounting practices. It adds that it is necessary to strike a balance between trust and control ? between risk taking and the dangers that risk involves ? in ensuring the sound financial management of Union research funds.

Euratom Framework Programme 2012-2013: nuclear research and training activities

The European Parliament adopted a non-legislative resolution amending the proposal for a Council decision concerning the Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for nuclear research and training activities (2012-2013).

Parliament considers that the prime reference amount set in the legislative proposal is not compatible with the ceiling of Heading 1a of the current Multiannual Financial Framework 2007- 2013 (MFF). It takes note of the Commission proposal to revise the current MFF in order to accommodate the additional unforeseen funding for ITER for the years 2012-2013, and it is willing to enter into negotiations with the other arm of the budgetary authority with a view to reaching a swift agreement on the financing of the Euratom research programme by the end of 2011. Members recall their opposition to any form of redeployment from the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013) as proposed in the Commission proposal.

The main amendments to the proposal are as follows:

Nuclear safety: Parliament states that the improvement of nuclear safety and, where relevant, security aspects, should be prioritised given the possible cross-border impact of nuclear incidents. In view of the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan resulting from the earthquake and tsunami of 11 March 2011, additional research work in the field of nuclear fission safety is necessary in order to reassure Union citizens that the safety of nuclear facilities based in the Union continues to meet the highest international standards. Such additional work requires an increase in the budget allocation for nuclear fission.

Additional funding of ITER: an agreement on additional funding of ITER solely through transfers of unused 2011 margins of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and without redeployments from the Seventh EU Framework Programme (2007-2013) to the Framework Programme (2012-2013) would allow for swift adoption of the programme in 2011.

A recital states that to accommodate the Framework Programme (2012-2013) in the MFF for the years 2012 and 2013, it will be necessary to amend the MFF by increasing the ceiling of Heading 1a. If no other 2011 MFF margins are available to be transferred in 2012 and 2013, the Flexibility Instrument, as provided for in point 27 of the IIA, should be mobilised.

For the 2014-2020 MFF, the financial resources dedicated to the ITER project should be fixed for the whole programming period so that any over-running of the costs beyond the EU share of EUR 6.6 billion for the ITER construction period, currently planned to be finalised in 2020, should be financed outside the MFF ceilings ('ring fencing').

Parliament adds that the Framework Programme (2012-2013) should be on the one hand be open to the participation of countries that have concluded the necessary agreements to this effect, and should also be open, at project level and on the basis of mutual benefit, to the participation of entities from third countries and of international organisations for scientific cooperation. On the other hand, this also means that, particularly with regard to the ITER project, the international partners should fully respect their financial obligations.

Framework Programme: the resolution stresses the need to place particular emphasis on nuclear safety, security and radiation protection.

It adds that the Framework Programme (2012-2013) shall contribute to implementing the SET-plan. Its actions should take into account the Strategic Research Agenda of the three existing European technology platforms on nuclear energy: SNETP, IGDP and MELODI.

Funding: the maximum amount for the implementation of the Framework Programme (2012-2013) shall be EUR 2 100 270 000 (rather than EUR 2 560 270 000). This amount shall be distributed as follows:

- fusion energy research EUR 1 748 809 000; this figure include the necessary funds for the continuation of the JET programme in Culham;
- nuclear fission, especially safety, improving the management of nuclear waste and radiation protection EUR 118 245 000;
- nuclear activities of the JRC relating to nuclear safety, environmental protection and decommissioning EUR 233 216 000.

Special attention shall be paid to the development of contractual arrangements that reduce the risk of failure to perform as well as the reallocation of risks and costs over time.

Special attention shall also be paid to initiatives ancillary to core nuclear research, in particular as regards investment in human capital and adequate working conditions and actions aimed at addressing the risk of skills shortages in the coming years.

Monitoring, assessment and review: Member States and the Commission shall establish a review of professional qualifications, training and skills in the nuclear field in the Union, which gives an overall picture of the current situation and enable appropriate solutions to be identified and implemented.

Annex: on nuclear fission and radiation protection, Parliament states that special attention should be given to long-lived nuclear waste when decommissioning outdated systems. It stresses continued support for the retention and development of qualified personnel required to maintain the nuclear independence of the Union and consistently ensure, and improve the level of, nuclear safety. It is crucial to keep nuclear expertise in the Union, as regards radioprotection and the dismantling of nuclear facilities, as nuclear energy will play a key role in the Union's energy mix, including decommissioning and long-life waste-management activities.

Lastly, Parliament states that the management of European research funding should be more trust-based and risk-tolerant towards

participants at all stages of the projects, while ensuring accountability, with flexible Union rules to improve alignment, where possible, with existing different national regulations and recognised accounting practices. It adds that it is necessary to strike a balance between trust and control between risk taking and the dangers that risk involves in ensuring the sound financial management of Union research funds.

Euratom Framework Programme 2012-2013: nuclear research and training activities

PURPOSE: to ensure the continuation of research and training activities funded by the EU in the area of nuclear science and technology for the period 2012-2013.

NON LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2012/93/Euratom concerning the Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for nuclear research and training activities (2012 to 2013).

CONTENT: the Council extended, for a two-year period, the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) framework programme for nuclear research.

The Euratom programme, which expires at the end of 2011, has been extended in order to align it with the end of the EU's current financial cycle in 2013. Euratom programmes are limited by the Euratom Treaty to five years, whereas the general 7th framework programme for research, which runs until the end of 2013, lasts for seven years.

This Decision forms part of the package of decisions relating to framework programmes comprising two types of activities ([direct](#) and [indirect](#) actions) and the [rules of participation](#).

The Framework Programme will build on the achievements of the Seventh Framework Programme adopted by Council Decision 2006/970/Euratom concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of Euratom for the period 2007 to 2011), whilst including necessary reinforced emphasis on nuclear safety contributing to reorientation of nuclear research. Regarding policy, the most significant development has been the adoption and endorsement of the [European Strategic Energy Technology Plan \(SET-Plan\)](#) as part of a broad portfolio approach to addressing future energy challenges.

Priorities: the programme will place particular stress on nuclear safety and security as well as radiation protection and, at the same time, will contribute to Innovation Union and to the creation of the European Research Area.

The Framework Programme will cover Community research, technological development, international cooperation, and dissemination of technical information, exploitation activities and training, to be set out in two specific programmes.

The first specific programme shall cover the following indirect actions:

- fusion energy research, with the objective of developing the technology for a safe, sustainable, environmentally responsible and economically viable energy source;
- nuclear fission, safety and radiation protection, with the objective of enhancing the safety of nuclear fission and other uses of radiation in industry, in medicine and in improving the management of radioactive waste.

The second specific programme shall cover the direct research activities of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in the field of nuclear waste management, environmental impact, safety and security.

Ethical principles: all the research activities carried out under the Framework Programme shall be carried out in compliance with fundamental ethical principles, including those reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Financial envelope: the maximum amount for the implementation of the Framework Programme shall be EUR 2 560 270 000. This amount shall be distributed as follows:

- for the specific programme to be carried out by means of indirect actions: (i) fusion energy research EUR 2 208 809 000 ; (ii) nuclear fission, safety, and radiation protection EUR 118 245 000;
- for the specific programme, to be carried out by means of direct actions: nuclear activities of the JRC : EUR 233 216 000.

Monitoring, assessment and review: the Commission shall continually and systematically monitor the implementation of the Framework Programme and its specific programmes and regularly report and disseminate the results of this monitoring. In early 2013, a specific monitoring report shall be presented to the Council, dedicated to the implementation of nuclear safety and security activities of the Framework Programme.

Following the completion of the Framework Programme, the Commission shall, by 31 December 2015, have an external evaluation carried out by independent experts of its rationale, implementation and achievements.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 21/02/2012.