

Commissioner Mr Miguel Arias -Cañete

ITER Industry Day

Monday , 4 December 2017, 08h30-17h30

European Commission, Berlaymont Building

Rue de la Loi, B -1040 Brussels

I. SPEECH

Dear Minister,
Members of the European Parliament,

- x I am sure you will share my view that ITER is a fascinating project and a crucial one for the future of energy.
- x Indeed, the aim of this unique endeavour is to develop a new, safe and clean source of energy on Earth, fusion energy. This would be a remarkable gift to the future generations.
- x ITER undoubtedly plays a great role in meeting our broader energy and climate policy objectives.
- x As you know, Europe is committed to decarbonising our economy ± as reflected in our leading role in making the Paris Agreement a reality. As a result, fossil fuels will gradually decrease in our energy mix, to be replaced by alternative sources.

- x Fusion is a climate-friendly and sustainable energy source: the fusion reaction does not produce any greenhouse gases or long-lasting radioactivity. It is therefore part of the solution to reach our Paris commitments, and could become a suitable complement to renewables.
- x Fusion is also extremely promising in fulfilling the other dimensions of our Energy Union: to make energy secure and affordable for our citizens, while supporting growth and job creation. A virtually inexhaustible energy source, fusion will make fuel widely available and practically unlimited, therefore ensuring stability for our grids, but also competitiveness for our economy.
- x This is the end objective. But there are many more benefits along the journey.
- x This is why today, I propose that we keep our feet firmly on the ground. I want to show you that ITER and fusion are not about dreams and science-fiction but about hard facts, real jobs, concrete technologies, buildings getting off the ground and components being manufactured.
- x It is very important to have these key facts in mind, at a moment when all ITER Members are discussing the new ITER baseline and its implications for their participation in the project. As you know, the European Commission has stated very clearly its full support to the continuation of the project through adoption of the Communication on the EU contribution to a reformed ITER project.
- x My hope is that today's event will make another important contribution to our ongoing discussion about ITER, with our EU partners, and with international partners to the project.
- x I hope to provide tangible evidence that investing in ITER is a wise business decision ± and as far as Europe is concerned, a smart way to make use of our common budget.
- x For my part I will focus on the 3 main following points :

site the progress is visible and substantial . If you have not recently been there, I strongly advise you to visit the project in Cadarache and see for yourself.

II-

III- Benefits for the economy and society at large

- x But ITER is not just the European contribution to the project. It is also the contribution of the other 6 members that are procuring all around the world the high-tech components needed to complete this device.
- x Thanks to this international participation, many European industries are establishing solid international cooperation and participating in international markets; opening new business opportunities and synergies related to ITER activities and beyond. The result of this cooperation is the creation and sharing of new know-how that is being created all over the world.
- x The benefits of ITER expand way beyond the broader energy sector: industry participating in the project develops 'spin off' products for exploitation outside fusion, for example in aviation and hi-tech instruments like the nuclear magnetic resonance scanners used in the health sector.
- x In one word, ITER is fully contributing to the agenda for jobs, growth and investment which is at the core of the political priorities of the Juncker Commission.

Conclusion:

- x The EU has shown leadership to address the challenges of ITER and to put the project back on track. The radical measures adopted in particular since 2015 are now yielding encouraging results.
- x As a result, ITER is not only an innovative and strategic project for the future, but it is already having a major impact on the industrial development for Europe and worldwide, beyond the strategic role for the EU energy policy.
- x I want to confirm here our commitment to ITER and the development of fusion as the host ITER Member.

