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Subject:	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 - <i>Statement by the German delegation</i> - <i>Statement by the Luxembourg delegation</i>

Statement for the minutes by the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the ITER proposal

The Federal Republic of Germany endorses the draft ITER decision and makes the following statement for the minutes:

On the basis of the 2006 ITER Agreement, as reaffirmed by the Council of the European Union in its conclusions of 12 April 2018 (7881/18) on the reformed ITER project, Germany supports the successful completion of the ITER project.

Germany views ITER (and fusion research in general) as a project for long-term, application-oriented basic research. The purpose of research into fusion power generation is to develop an energy source that is fossil-free, reliable, sustainable and economically viable. Should research successfully translate into application, this energy source would only be available from 2050.

Germany's motivation - in addition to the green energy transition - is to express its own global responsibility as well as that of the European Union to further advance our understanding of fusion processes and to make this outstanding scientific know-how available to the world. In the light of the increasing global demand for energy and international climate policy targets, Germany considers it imperative to explore a broad range of options that can potentially enable a sustainable, carbon-free energy supply in the future. Fusion energy might be one of those options, and is being pursued by ITER in a targeted manner.

Germany nevertheless considers it appropriate not to assign any climate relevance to ITER within the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027. This is because ITER is likely only to begin operations upon achieving First Plasma at the end of 2025. Accordingly, the European Commission, in accordance with the amendment to recital 10 as now agreed, should not include EU expenditure on ITER as a contribution to the target of devoting at least 30 % of the total expenditure from the EU budget and the Next Generation EU instrument to climate-related action. After successful achievement of First Plasma, the issue of ITER's climate relevance should be reassessed as the MFF for the period starting in 2028 approaches.

Statement by Luxembourg

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.

Luxembourg remains, in general, very critical of the financing of nuclear research activities by the European Union. Luxembourg would like EU funding to be channelled to a greater extent into renewable energies in the future. Since 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 does not advocate channelling funding in this way, Luxembourg's position remains unchanged. Despite its misgivings as to the content of this Decision, Luxembourg is able to withdraw its general reservation and therefore abstains from the vote.