

Sciences

A European delegation in Tokyo to discuss ITER again

19/03: 10:52. A delegation of the European Commission began Friday a five day visit in Tokyo to discuss again with the Japanese experts the disputed issue of ITER, the experiment of nuclear fusion, one learned from a European diplomatic source.

From Monday the delegation will be directed, by the Greek, Achilleas Mitsos, the general manager in charge of Research at the Commission.

She will be joined on Monday, by seven European experts, including the French High Commissioner with atomic energy (CEA), Bernard Bigot.

The program will include discussions with Japanese specialists in the nuclear power and energy as well as representatives of employers and ministries for Sciences and Technology, Economy, Trade and Industry, and Affairs Foreign.

The EU, Russia, China, the United States, South Korea and Japan take part in the ambitious project of international experimental thermonuclear experiment (ITER) whose objective in the long term is to produce on Earth the mechanisms of fusion that are at work in stars.

But the process has stumbled for several months on the choice of the site, between the free-European candidature of Cadarache and that of Rokkasho-Mura, in the north of Japan. The site selection process is currently completely blocked.

The EU, Moscow and Peking support the French candidature, while Washington and Seoul prefer the Japanese site.

To try to exit the dead end, the partners have agreed to analyze the sites according to technical criteria.

Tokyo proposed to share the project between Japan and France, a solution that was rejected last week by the Europeans.

The European Council of Competitiveness and Research reaffirmed their support for Cadarache (south-eastern of France), insistent on the fact that, according to them, this site is "technically the best", which questions highly the Japanese.

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