



# New Energy Times

August 2, 2020

To: Massimo Garribba, Acting Deputy Director-General Coordination of Directorates D and E, European Commission

Cc: Kadri Simson, Commissioner, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission

Dear Mr. Garribba,

I am writing to you because you have oversight responsibility for the ITER project on behalf of the European Commission. I also understand that you are the Head of Delegation representing the European Union on the ITER Council.

I would like to thank you for your letter of [June 10, 2020](#). I would also like to acknowledge your organization's successful efforts to make your claims about the ITER project accurate on the European Commission [Fusion Energy](#) Web page.

When I first began communicating with the commission, the earlier version of that page, as of [Sept. 17, 2017](#), contained false claims about the expected outcome of the project:

The international scientific community is now building ITER to show that fusion energy is possible at an industrial scale. ... ITER will be the first experiment to produce significant quantities of fusion energy, considerably more than required to operate the machine.

After receiving several letters from me, the commission made its first corrections to those claims, changing them, as of [June 12, 2018](#), to:

The international scientific community is now building ITER, which will demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion on Earth as a sustainable energy source. ... ITER will be the first experiment to generate up to 500 million watts (MW) of fusion power.

Those corrections confirmed the commission's understanding that the intent of the reactor is not to show that fusion energy is possible at industrial scale and that the experiment is not designed to produce considerably more energy than required to operate the machine.

After receiving additional letters from me, the commission, after a site redesign, corrected the claim on [Oct. 29, 2019](#), removed the 500 MW claim, and made it fully accurate:

ITER is of key importance in the roadmap, as it aims to prove the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion as a future energy source.

The commission's public claims about ITER, to my knowledge, are now almost completely accurate. I encourage you to fix the remaining misleading statement. The document "[The ITER Project: The Road to Fusion](#)," linked from [this page](#), makes this claim:

ITER's goal is to prove that fusion power devices can feasibly produce energy that could be converted into electricity.

I do agree that the document does not imply that ITER will produce electricity. However, based on the ITER design specification, ITER will not produce enough thermal power to be converted to even one Watt of net electrical power. Therefore, replacing the word "produce" with another word, as you suggested in your June 10, 2020, letter, cannot fix the problem.

Therefore, an accurate and precise correction would be:

ITER's goal is to prove that a fusion plasma can produce 10 times the thermal power injected into the plasma.

I'm optimistic that you will ensure that the European Commission's claims about the ITER project are accurate and transparent.

Kind regards,



Steven Krivit

Publisher and Senior Editor, *New Energy Times*