EU and Euratom/Georgia, Japan, Norway, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Korea, Tajikistan, USA Agreement: continuing the International Science and Technology Center

2016/0120(NLE) - 17/05/2016 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude the Agreement continuing the International Science and Technology Center.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the Agreement continuing the International Science and Technology Center between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community ("Euratom") acting as one Party and Georgia, Japan, Norway, the Kyrgyz Republic, Armenia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, and the United States of America was signed on 9 December 2015, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

It is now necessary to approve the Agreement.

CONTENT: the draft Council Decision seeks to **approve, on behalf of the European Union, the Agreement continuing the International Science and Technology Center**.

The Center's core objectives as laid down in the continuation Agreement are as follows:

- **to promote the improvement of international mechanisms for the prevention of the proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems**, as well as of technologies, materials, and expertise that are key elements directly related to the development, production, use, or enhancement of WMD or their delivery systems (including dual-use technology, materials, and expertise);
- **to give scientists and engineers with knowledge and skills applicable to WMD** and their delivery systems, including dual-use knowledge and skills, opportunities for training and alternative employment where their knowledge and skills can be used for peaceful activities;
- **to promote a culture of security** with respect to the handling and use of materials, equipment, and technology which could be used for the design, development, production, or use of WMD or their means of delivery;
- **to contribute through its activities**: (i) to the development of international scientific partnership, strengthening global security, and fostering economic growth through innovation; (ii) to basic and applied research and technology development and commercialization, inter alia, in the fields of environment, energy, health, and nuclear, chemical, and biological safety and security; and (iii) to promoting the further integration of scientists with technologies, material, and expertise applicable to WMD into the international scientific community.

The Center shall have a **Governing Board and a Secretariat**, consisting of an Executive Director (who serves as the chief executive officer), Deputy Executive Director(s), and other personnel of the Center, in accordance with the Statute of the Center.

Projects approved by the Governing Board may be financed or supported by the Center, Parties, non-governmental organizations, foundations, academic and scientific institutions, inter-governmental organizations, and organizations in the private sector.

In line with the Agreement, the funding Parties will have full **access to monitor, audit, evaluate and inspect EU funded projects**, including inspection of the facilities benefiting from the funding.

The Agreement foresees that all the activities will benefit from the tax-free regime and other tax privileges in the recipient countries.