



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the 56th General Conference of the
IAEA**

Vienna, 17 September 2012

Mr President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union The Accessing Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland** and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.
2. First of all, let me congratulate you, Mr President, on your election as President of this 56th General Conference. I can assure you, the Members of the Bureau and the Secretariat, of the full support of the European Union in your efforts to make this conference a success. I wish to thank the outgoing President, H.E. Ambassador Cornel Feruta, from Romania, who guided us so ably through the General Conference last year. The European Union would also like to thank the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat for their professional and impartial work and assure them of its unfailing support. The EU furthermore welcomes the application for membership of the Republic of Fiji, San Marino and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Nuclear non-proliferation

Mr President,

3. The EU remains committed to effective multilateral action against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and emphasises the importance of universalizing the NPT. We call on States that have not done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states. Furthermore the EU is actively contributing to global efforts to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the NPT, in a way

that promotes international stability and based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

4. The EU welcomed the consensus reached on the Action Plan at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The Action Plan, as well as the agreement on a process on the implementation of the 1995 NPT Resolution on the Middle East, demonstrated our common resolve not only to uphold, but also to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The EU also welcomes the professional work and consultations carried out by the Facilitator, H.E. Mr. Jaakko Laajava, as well as its report for the 2012 Conference on a WMD free zone in the Middle East presented during the NPT PrepCom meeting earlier this year in Vienna.
5. With regard to a NWFZ in the Middle East, we welcomed the outcome of the Forum convened in November 2011 at the initiative of the IAEA Director General (document GOV/2011/55), in which participants from the Middle East and other interested parties were able to learn from experiences of other regions, including in the area of confidence building relevant to the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone.
6. As announced during this year's NPT PrepCom, the EU is pleased to confirm that it will hold a follow-up event to its seminar organized in July 2011 on the creation of a WMD free zone in the Middle East. The event, in the shape of a seminar following the same lines of our previous initiative, will be held on 5 and 6 November 2012 in Brussels, and will allow for an open exchange of views among the participants on all aspects related to the creation of a WMD free zone in the Middle East.
7. The EU would like to re-affirm its full support for the establishment of a WMD free zone free in the Middle East, also demonstrated by the

recent adoption, on 23 July 2012, of a new EU Council Decision (2012/422/CFSP) in support of a process leading to the establishment of such a zone. Full implementation of the 1995 resolution and 2010 commitments remain a key objective for the EU. In this respect, the EU welcomes the constructive spirit once again shown by all interested parties on the issue of non-proliferation in the Middle East at this year's General Conference.

Safeguards and Nuclear Verification

Mr. President,

8. The 2010 NPT Review Conference reaffirmed the role of the IAEA in verifying and assuring compliance by States of their safeguards obligations, with a view to preventing the diversion of nuclear material and activities from peaceful uses. Equally it stressed the importance of resolving all cases of non-compliance with safeguards obligations and of States parties responding resolutely and effectively in such cases.
9. The EU is deeply concerned by the protracted and serious challenges to the non-proliferation regime posed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Syrian Arab Republic.
10. The EU would like to stress again that the United Nations Security Council, as the final arbiter of international peace and security, has the mandate to take appropriate action in the event of non-compliance with NPT obligations including safeguards agreements.

Iran

Mr. President,

11. The EU notes with great concern that the latest reports of the Director General of the IAEA confirm that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in violation of its international obligations, continues to expand its enrichment activities, including by increasing its capacity to enrich to 20%. In addition, the EU is deeply worried that, contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Board of Governors and the Security Council, Iran has not suspended work on all heavy water related projects and is not cooperating with the IAEA to resolve questions and concerns relating to the possible military dimensions to its nuclear programme.

12. The EU deeply regrets that despite the continuing efforts of the Agency to engage Iran in an intensified dialogue to resolve all outstanding substantive issues, in accordance with the requirement in Resolution GOV/2011/69, adopted by the Board in November 2011, no concrete results have been achieved.
Mr President, the DG's latest report shows clearly that Iran has not engaged seriously and without preconditions in talks aimed at restoring international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme, as required by that resolution. Iran's procrastination is unacceptable. The EU again urges Iran to cooperate fully with the Agency. We would like to reiterate that the test of any agreement e.g. on a structured approach, when signed, will be its implementation.

13. The EU urges Iran to implement the mandatory Resolutions of the UN Security Council and the binding Resolutions of the Board of Governors. Iran must suspend its enrichment activities and heavy water related projects, including research and development, implement the modified Code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Arrangements General Part to its Safeguards Agreement. The latter is not a matter which UN or IAEA Member States can unilaterally decide upon. Therefore the EU cannot accept that compliance with international obligations freely accepted by Iran previously can be later

unilaterally revoked. UNSC resolutions also call upon Iran to bring into force its Additional Protocol. Iran must fully cooperate with the Agency in order to clarify all outstanding issues, in particular those which give rise to deep concerns about possible military dimensions to its nuclear programme.

14. The EU's objective remains to achieve a comprehensive negotiated long-term settlement, which would build international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme, while respecting Iran's legitimate rights to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in conformity with the NPT. The EU High Representative, together with China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, remain firm, clear and united in seeking a swift diplomatic resolution of the international community's concerns on the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme, based on the NPT, and the full implementation of UN Security Council and IAEA Board of Governors Resolutions. Based on the principles of a step-by-step approach and reciprocity, clear and credible proposals have been laid out in recent months for an initial confidence building step, which will address the immediate key concern, including the 20% enrichment activities, in a comprehensive manner. We urge Iran once again to engage seriously and take such a step.

15. The EU would like to mention that it fully supported the resolution tabled by China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States at the recent Board of Governors meeting, urging Iran, once again, to comply with all its international obligations.

DPRK

16. The nuclear weapons and missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its decision to cease all cooperation with the IAEA remain an ongoing matter of grave concern to the

European Union. The EU recalls the condemnation by the UNSC of the 13 April 2012 satellite launch by the DPRK, using ballistic missile technology in violation of UNSC Resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009), and the subsequent strengthening of the United Nations sanctions measures. The EU regrets that the invitation by the DPRK to carry out a visit in accordance with the US-DPRK agreement of February 2012 was discontinued, and that the Agency's inspectors were not granted access to the relevant nuclear facilities in Yongbyon.

17. The EU again urges the DPRK to abandon all its existing nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. We call on the DPRK to refrain from any further provocation including any further nuclear tests and to return to full compliance with all its NPT and IAEA safeguards obligations, to allow an early return of IAEA inspectors and to provide the IAEA with the requested access to individuals, documentation, equipment and facilities.

Syria

18. Mr President, the EU fully supported the adoption of the resolution of the Board of Governors of 9 June 2011, which reported Syria to the UN Security Council and to the UN General Assembly due to the non-compliance by Syria with its obligations under its safeguards agreement. This resolution was based on the conclusion of the Agency in the DG's June report to the Board of Governors 'that the destroyed building at the Dair Alzour site was very likely a nuclear reactor and should have been declared by Syria pursuant to Articles 41 and 42 of its Safeguards Agreement and Code 3.1 of the General Part of the Subsidiary Arrangements thereto'.

19. The EU deeply regrets that, despite this resolution, and the Syrian pledge of 26 May 2011 to the Director General to respond positively and without delay to the Agency's request to resolve all outstanding questions, Syria still has to provide the necessary cooperation.
20. The EU shares the concerns of the Agency and its disappointment that, despite proposals by the Agency to hold further discussions, Syria, in a letter dated 12 February 2012, was only able to indicate, that it would provide a detailed response at a later time.
21. The EU once again strongly urges Syria, as required by the Board's resolution, to remedy urgently its non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement and to cooperate urgently and transparently with the Agency to clarify matters with regard to Dair Alzour and the other sites, and to bring into force an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

22. The Agency's system of safeguards is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. The EU reiterates its view that the measures contained in the Model Additional Protocol form an integral part of the IAEA Safeguards system and that Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols constitute the current IAEA verification standard. The EU calls for universalisation of these two essential instruments of the IAEA safeguards system without delay. The EU is of the view that measures to strengthen the effectiveness and to improve the efficiency of the Agency's safeguards system are required. These should include the improved cooperation with state and regional systems of accountancy for and control of nuclear materials, as well as the adoption of the 2005 revised Small Quantities Protocol, where relevant. The EU firmly supports the continued evolution of

safeguards to a State-level concept, applicable to all States, that is more objectives based and that considers all safeguards relevant information about a State. The EU encourages the Secretariat to continue to inform Member States about the further evolution of the State-level concept and its implications for the planning, conduct and evaluation of safeguards. This approach will enable the IAEA to focus its efforts where the risks of proliferation are greatest.

23. We welcome the fact that the IAEA and the EU's Regional System for Accountancy and Control, EURATOM Safeguards, continue to develop their cooperation arrangements. This should enable the IAEA to more fully use EURATOM's verification activities and thereby optimise the use of its resources. The close cooperation between EURATOM and the IAEA, exemplified by the joint inspection of installations underpinned by the joint management and use of common instruments and tools, makes for effective and efficient safeguards and allows the EU's Member States to demonstrate continuing respect for their international non-proliferation obligations.

24. The EU actively supports the Agency's safeguards system through inter alia the EC Safeguards Support Programme, which is one of the biggest support programmes in this field. The EU recognizes the need to strengthen the Agency's capability to provide credible and timely analysis of safeguards samples and therefore firmly supports the modernization of the Safeguards Analytical Laboratory (SAL) in Seibersdorf. The European Union is contributing 5 M€ towards modernising the IAEA Safeguards Analytical Laboratory (SAL) and a second EU contribution of approximately the same amount is now in the final stages of the EU decision-making process.

Nuclear Safety

25. Mr. President,

On Nuclear Safety and the EU responses to the Fukushima Daichi nuclear accident, I would like to mention that EURATOM will address these important items and the recently held successful Second Extraordinary Meeting on the CNS in more detail, later during the General Conference.

26 The EU attaches the utmost importance to the implementation of the highest standards of nuclear safety worldwide. International cooperation is crucial for promoting the global nuclear safety framework. In this context, the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Conventions on Notification and Assistance, and the Joint Convention are instruments of major importance. The EU calls on all Member States, which have not yet done so to become contracting parties to the relevant safety conventions without delay. The IAEA Action Plan on nuclear safety is also an important instrument to be implemented by Member States and the Secretariat.

Nuclear Security

Mr President,

27. The proliferation of uncontrolled nuclear material is a major security risk and must be prevented. If nuclear weapons, nuclear material or highly radioactive sources were to fall into terrorist hands, they would pose one of the potentially most destructive threats to global security. We therefore need to strengthen the international nuclear security architecture.

28. In the light of the ongoing threats, the EU is actively supporting UNSCR 1540 and UNSCR 1887 as well as a number of other

international initiatives, the G8 Global Partnership, the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. The EU welcomes the conference to be hosted by the Agency in July 2013 entitled “International Conference on Nuclear Security: enhancing Global Efforts” open to all States and welcomes the role that international processes and initiatives, including Nuclear Security Summits organized in Washington and Seoul and the one to be held in The Hague in 2014, can play in facilitating synergy and cooperation in the area of nuclear security.

29. The EU welcomes recent steps to strengthen the Agency's Nuclear Security Programme. In this regard, we welcome the “International Conference on Nuclear Security: enhancing global efforts” to be hosted by the Agency in July 2013, as well as the establishment of the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee.
30. The EU supports IAEA activities in the areas of nuclear security in the framework of the implementation of the EU strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The EU, together with individual Member States, are among the main contributors to the Nuclear Security Fund, having provided around € 30 million to date. So far more than 50 countries have benefited from assistance funded through EU Joint Actions and Council Decisions, and the number continues to grow.
31. Under the EU Instrument for Stability (IfS), nearly €260 million has been dedicated during the period 2007 – 2013 to CBRN risk mitigation worldwide. Out of this amount more than € 100 million has been allocated to the EU's regional CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative. The objective of the CBRN CoE is to invest in the strengthening of the institutional capacity of stakeholders in partner countries to mitigate chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear risks, irrespective of their origin (proliferation/terrorism,

accidents, natural events). At the same time the EU has stepped up its outreach and coordination efforts to key partners and international organisations: the UN Security Council welcomed the establishment of the CBRN CoE on 19 April 2012, a major conference on the CBRN CoE was held at the UN in New York on 22 June and EU services are about to finalise a broad understanding on coordination with the IAEA's Office of Nuclear Security that will include regular work on a strategic and technical level on the radiological and nuclear aspects of the CBRN CoE initiative.

32. Effective Physical Protection is of utmost importance to prevent nuclear material falling into hands of terrorists or accidental misuse, and to protect nuclear facilities against unauthorised use and malicious acts. The EU therefore urges all States that have not yet done so, to become party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 amendment.

IAEA LEU Bank

33. The European Union remains firmly convinced of the benefits of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. In line with the 2010 NPT Review Conference's conclusions on this matter, the EU welcomes the steps taken to establish a low-enriched uranium bank under IAEA auspices. The EU is committed to supporting this future LEU bank with up to € 25 million, of which financial engagement of € 20 million has already been signed.

Technical cooperation and EU support for peaceful uses

Mr. President,

34. The Agency's Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme and the role of the Agency in the responsible development of the Peaceful Applications of Nuclear Technology in the areas of human health,

food and agriculture, water resources, environment and nuclear energy, and nuclear and radiation safety in participating MS, is valued and widely supported. Similarly, the successful undertakings of the Agency in this regard are commendable and the contribution of TC Projects to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is greatly valued.

35. The European Union uses several of its financial instruments to support both the IAEA, and cooperation with third countries, in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology with a total amount of some € 150 million per year. Part of this funding is implemented in third countries through the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Fund to which the EU and its Member States are among the largest contributors. We also make substantial contributions to the Agency's Peaceful Uses Initiative. On 4 May 2012, in the margins of the NPT PrepCom, the EU organised a side-event on the topic of peaceful uses, with the participation of the IAEA.

36. Finally, Mr. President

Through the EU Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) up to €524 million was allocated over the period 2007 – 2013 to the promotion of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and affective safeguards of nuclear material in third countries. This instrument finances projects in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Northern Africa. The EU Instrument for Pre-Accession has also financed similar activities in countries candidate to EU membership; more than € 35 million was allocated over the same period to these countries, mainly to radiation protection. The EU aims at pursuing its support to nuclear safety world-wide through the INSC over the period 2014-2020 and should soon conclude negotiations on the regulation establishing this new INSC programme.

I thank you, Mr President.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

** Iceland remains an EFTA country and member of the European Economic area