



## **European Union**

**Statement on the occasion of the 58<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the  
IAEA**

**Vienna, 22 September 2014**

Mr President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland†, Serbia\*, Albania\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.
2. First of all, let me congratulate you, Mr President, on your election as President of this 58<sup>th</sup> General Conference. I wish to thank the outgoing President, H.E. Ambassador Xolisa Mfundiso Mabhongo from South Africa, who guided us so ably through the General Conference last year. The EU would also like to thank the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat for their professional and impartial work, and to assure them of the EU's unflinching support. The EU furthermore welcomes the applications for membership by the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu.

### **Nuclear non-proliferation**

Mr President,

3. The EU is committed to effective multilateral action against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and attaches the utmost importance to universalizing the NPT. We call on States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states. 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. We underline the vital importance of non-proliferation for achieving these goals.
4. The EU would like to reiterate its commitment to the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, as agreed by NPT states parties in a Resolution on the Middle East during the 1995 Review Conference. We therefore regret that the Conference on the establishment of such a zone, due to take place in 2012, was postponed. The EU fully supports the on-going preparations for a

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\* Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

† Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

successful Conference and in particular the tireless efforts of its Facilitator, Ambassador Laajava of Finland. The progress achieved during the informal gatherings in Switzerland has given some grounds for hope. The EU calls on all States in the region to urgently and proactively engage with the Facilitator and the Co-Conveners with the aim of convening the Conference as soon as possible, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region.

### **Safeguards and Nuclear Verification**

Mr. President,

5. The 2010 NPT Review Conference reaffirmed the role of the IAEA in verifying and assuring the compliance by States with their safeguards obligations, and stressed the importance of resolving all cases of non-compliance and of States parties responding resolutely and effectively in such cases.
  
6. The EU is deeply concerned by the protracted and serious present challenges to the non-proliferation regime. The EU would like to stress again that the United Nations Security Council, that has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, has the mandate to take appropriate action in the event of non-compliance with safeguards agreements where they pose a threat to peace and security.

### **Iran**

7. The EU fully supports the ongoing diplomatic efforts led by the High Representative, together with China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the UK and the US to seek a diplomatic solution with Iran to the Iranian nuclear issue. The EU welcomes the Joint Plan of Action between Iran and the E3/EU+3, and the Framework for Cooperation between Iran and the Agency and that Iran continues to implement the measures under the JPA.
  
8. It is essential and urgent that Iran cooperates fully with the Agency regarding Possible Military Dimensions. The EU underlines that resolving all outstanding issues will be essential to achieve a comprehensive, negotiated long-term settlement, which is the EU's objective. It is vital that

Iran engages fully with the IAEA to resolve all outstanding issues in order to build international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme.

The EU is deeply concerned that the Agency is unable to provide credible assurances about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran, and therefore is not able to conclude that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities.

## **DPRK**

9. The EU has condemned, in the strongest possible terms, the DPRK's nuclear test of February 2013, as well as the DPRK's threat of another nuclear test and has urged the DPRK to refrain from further provocative actions. The February 2013 nuclear test was another blatant challenge to the global non-proliferation regime and an outright violation of the DPRK's international obligations, in particular under UN Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087. The EU will continue to work with key partners and the wider international community to demonstrate to the DPRK, including through the full implementation of UN sanctions, that there are consequences for its continued violations of UNSC Resolutions. We once again urge the DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons programme, including its uranium enrichment programme, in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. The EU continues to attach high importance to maintaining an essential role for the IAEA in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme.

## **Syria**

Mr President,

10. The EU fully supported the adoption of the resolution of the Board of Governors of 9 June 2011, which reported Syria's non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement to the UN Security Council and the General Assembly. The EU deeply regrets that Syria has still to remedy its non-compliance by cooperating as a matter of priority and transparently with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues, and by signing, bringing into force and implementing in full an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

11. 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 measures contained in the Model Additional Protocol form an integral part of the IAEA Safeguards system and, in the EU's view Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols constitute the current IAEA verification standard. The EU calls for their universalisation without delay. In this respect, the EU welcomes the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina has brought an Additional Protocol into force, and that Kuwait has amended its Small Quantities Protocol.

The EU has firmly supported the continued evolution of safeguards as exemplified by the development of the State-level concept (SLC). The Supplementary Document to GOV/2013/38 based on various technical meetings over the course of this year, and providing clarifications and additional information, is much appreciated. The EU is convinced that consistent and universal implementation of the SLC will further strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA Safeguards System and will thus contribute to global non-proliferation efforts.

12. For the EU, the close cooperation between EURATOM and the IAEA allows effective and efficient safeguards. The EU is actively supporting the Agency's safeguards system through the EC Safeguards Support Programme and through the Support Programmes of some of its Member States. The EU recognizes the need to strengthen the Agency's ability to provide credible and timely analysis of safeguards samples. The European Union and some of its Member States have contributed more than € 18.5 million to the modernisation of the IAEA Safeguards Analytical Laboratory, which was inaugurated by the DG during last year's General Conference.

#### **Cooperation IAEA and EU**

13. The EU is pleased with its present cooperation with the IAEA. The most recent EU-IAEA Senior Officials Meeting took place in Vienna in February 2014. It followed a visit by DG Amano to Brussels, where he met the President of the European Commission and other EU Senior Officials, and to Munich, where he met the EU High Representative. Practical examples

of the fruitful cooperation between the EU and the IAEA can be seen at the EU stand in the corridor next to the Rotunda of the VIC.

### **Nuclear Safety**

Mr. President,

14. Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding on Nuclear Safety signed last year by DG Amano, and EU Commissioner for Energy, Günther Oettinger, a Senior Officials Liaison Committee was established and met earlier this year to identify areas of potential future cooperation, such as Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Building Competence through education and training, as well as through knowledge networks.
  
15. The EU attaches importance to the worldwide implementation and continuous improvement of the highest standards of nuclear safety promoted internationally. The Council of the European Union adopted on 8 July 2014 a renewed Directive to strengthen the safety framework for nuclear installations. This Directive sets the objective of preventing accidents and, should they occur, mitigating the consequences and avoiding early and large radioactive releases. This objective will apply to all new nuclear installations and will be used as a reference for the implementation of safety improvements to existing nuclear installations. We look forward to the Diplomatic Conference next year, where a similar enhancement to the Convention on Nuclear Safety will be discussed.

### **Nuclear Security**

Mr President,

16. In the framework of its strategy against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the EU is actively supporting UNSCR 1540 and UNSCR 1887 as well as other international initiatives, such as the Global Partnership, the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Global Threat Reduction Initiative and the Nuclear Security Summits (NSS) which contribute to strengthening nuclear security. Out of €260 million dedicated to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation worldwide, more than € 100 million in the period 2014-2020 has been allocated to the EU's regional CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative. The EU strongly supports IAEA activities in the areas of nuclear security and is, together with its

Member States, among the main contributors to the Nuclear Security Fund, having provided around €40 million to date, to the benefit of around 100 countries. We intend to continue to support the IAEA's work.

The EU looks forward to the next high-level IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security to take place in December 2016.

17. Effective Physical Protection is of the utmost importance to prevent nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists and proliferators, and to protect nuclear facilities against 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 to adhere to its 2005 amendment, so that it enters into force as soon as possible. We fully support and welcome the DG's concerted efforts in this regard.

#### **IAEA LEU Bank**

18. The European Union remains firmly convinced of the benefits of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. We had hoped to see the IAEA LEU Bank already completed, but welcome the efforts of the Secretariat to intensify the process and expect the early conclusion of the Host State Agreement with Kazakhstan. The EU has contributed €20 million and pledged up to €5 million to this project.

#### **Nuclear Power**

19. The EU notes that projections for global installed nuclear power capacity still indicate an increase by 2030, with different regional developments. Although these projections have been lowered every year since 2010, we note that nuclear power remains, according to the Agency, an important option for several countries.

The EU welcomes the decision of the Director General to devote this year's Scientific Forum to the challenges of radioactive waste management and to the scientific and technological options available to safely address them.

#### **Technical Cooperation and EU support for peaceful uses**

Mr. President,

20. The European Union attaches the utmost importance to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme and the role of the Agency in the responsible development of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The EU supports both the IAEA, and cooperation with third countries, in this area, with a total amount of some € 150 million per year.
  
21. As further support to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the EU has allocated € 225 million over the period 2014 – 2020 for the promotion of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear material in third countries.

Finally Mr President,

The EU would like to assure you of its continuing strong support for the essential activities of the Agency.

I thank you.