

Information Circular

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Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

An Agreement by Exchange of Letters with the Republic of Moldova to amend the Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement

1. The text of the Exchange of Letters, constituting an agreement to amend the Protocol¹ to the Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons², is reproduced in this document for the information of all Member States of the Agency.
2. The amendments agreed upon in the Exchange of Letters entered into force on 20 September 2010, the date on which the Agency received Moldova's affirmative reply.

¹ Referred to as the "Small Quantities Protocol".

² Reproduced in document INFCIRC/690.

MINISTERUL MEDIULUI
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

AGENȚIA NAȚIONALĂ DE
REGLEMENTARE A ACTIVITĂȚILOR
NUCLEARE ȘI RADIOLOGICE

Str. Alecu Russo, 1, MD 2060,
Chișinău, Republica Moldova
Tel./fax: +373 (22) 311137
e-mail: agentia.nucleara@anranr.gov.md



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

NATIONAL AGENCY
FOR REGULATION OF NUCLEAR AND
RADIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

1, Alecu Russo St., 1, MD 2060,
Chișinău, Republic of Moldova
Phone/fax +373 (22) 311137
e-mail: agentia.nucleara@anranr.gov.md

Chisinau, 2010-08-25

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to refer to the IAEA's letter of 14 December 2005 which reads as follows:

"I have the honor to refer to the Agreement between your Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to the Protocol thereto (hereinafter referred to as "the Small Quantities Protocol"), which were signed on 14 June 1996, as well as to the decision of the IAEA Board of Governors of 20 September 2005 related to such protocols.

In his report entitled "Strengthening safeguards implementation in States with Small Quantities Protocols" the IAEA Director General, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, drew attention to the Agency's need to receive initial reports on nuclear material, to obtain information on planned or existing nuclear facilities; and to be able to perform inspection activities in the field, if required, for all States with comprehensive safeguards agreements. He explained that the Small Quantities Protocols currently had the effect of holding such authority in abeyance.

The Board agreed with the Director General's assessment and, on the basis of the Director General's report, concluded that the Small Quantities Protocol in its present form was a weakness in the Agency's safeguards system. It decided that the Small Quantities Protocol should remain part of the Agency's safeguards system, subject to the modifications in the standardized text and the change in the criteria for a Small Quantities Protocol as proposed in the Director General's report. The Board also decided that, henceforth, it would approve only texts for such protocols based on a revised standardized text and subject to the modified criteria.

The Board authorized the Director General to conclude with all States with Small Quantities Protocols exchanges of letters giving effect to the revised standardized text and the modified criteria, and called on the States concerned to conclude such exchanges of letters as soon as possible.

It is therefore proposed that paragraph 1 of the Small Quantities Protocol be amended to read as follows:

I. (1) Until such time as the Republic of Moldova

(a) Has, in peaceful nuclear activities within its territory or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere, nuclear material in quantities exceeding the limits stated, for the type of material in question, in Article 36 of the Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and

the Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"), or

(b) Has taken the decision to construct or authorize construction of a facility, as defined in the Definitions,

the implementation of the provisions in Part II of the Agreement shall be held in abeyance, with the exception of Articles 32-38, 40, 48, 49, 59, 61, 67, 68, 70, 72-76, 82, 84-90, 94 and 95.

(2) The information to be reported pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) of Article 33 of the Agreement may be consolidated and submitted in an annual report; similarly, an annual report shall be submitted, if applicable, with respect to the import and export of nuclear material described in paragraph (c) of Article 33.

(3) In order to enable the timely conclusion of the Subsidiary Arrangements provided for in Article 38 of the Agreement, the Republic of Moldova shall

(a) Notify the Agency sufficiently in advance of its having nuclear material in peaceful nuclear activities within its territory or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere in quantities that exceed the limits, as referred to in section 1 hereof, or


*(b) Notify the Agency as soon as the decision to construct or to authorize construction of a facility has been taken,
whichever occurs first.*

If this proposal is acceptable to your Government, this letter and your Government's affirmative reply shall constitute an agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the IAEA to amend the Small Quantities Protocol accordingly, which amendments shall enter into force on the date that the Agency receives that reply".

With regard to the aforementioned, I am pleased to inform you that the Republic of Moldova accepts the Amendments to the Small Quantities Protocol.

The present letter and the IAEA letter of December 14, 2005, shall constitute an Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the IAEA concluded by exchange of letters with regard to the Amendments to the Small Quantities Protocol, annexed to the Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which shall enter into force on the first date of the month, that follows the date at which the parties notified each other on the completion of procedures of entry into force.

Sincerely,


Artur BUZDUGAN,
Director

Mr. Vilmos CERVENI
Director,
Office of External Relations and Policy Coordination
IAEA, Vienna, Austria



IAEA

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية

国际原子能机构

International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence Internationale de l'énergie atomique

Международное агентство по атомной энергии

Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

Atoms For Peace

Wagramer Strasse 5, P.O. Box 100, A-1400 Wien, Austria

Phone: (+43 1) 2600 • Fax: (+43 1) 26007

E-mail: Official.Mail@iaea.org • Internet: <http://www.iaea.org>

In reply please refer to:

Dial directly to extension: (+431) 2600-21522

Her Excellency
Ms. Natalia Gherman
Resident Representative of the Republic
of Moldova to the IAEA
Löwengasse 47/10
1030 Wien, Austria

2005-12-14

Madam,

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement between your Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to the Protocol thereto (hereinafter referred to as "the Small Quantities Protocol"), which were signed on 14 June 1996, as well as to the decision of the IAEA Board of Governors of 20 September 2005 related to such protocols.

In his report entitled "Strengthening safeguards implementation in States with Small Quantities Protocols", the IAEA Director General, Dr Mohamed ElBaradei, drew attention to the Agency's need to receive initial reports on nuclear material, to obtain information on planned or existing nuclear facilities; and to be able to perform inspection activities in the field, if required, for all States with comprehensive safeguards agreements. He explained that the Small Quantities Protocols currently had the effect of holding such authority in abeyance.

The Board agreed with the Director General's assessment and, on the basis of the Director General's report, concluded that the Small Quantities Protocol in its present form was a weakness in the Agency's safeguards system. It decided that the Small Quantities Protocol should remain part of the Agency's safeguards system, subject to the modifications in the standardized text and the change in the criteria for a Small Quantities Protocol as proposed in the Director General's report. The Board also decided that, henceforth, it would approve only texts for such protocols based on a revised standardized text and subject to modified criteria.

The Board authorized the Director General to conclude with all States with Small Quantities Protocols exchanges of letters giving effect to the revised standardized text and the modified criteria, and called on the States concerned to conclude such exchanges of letters as soon as possible.

It is therefore proposed that paragraph I of the Small Quantities Protocol be amended to read as follows:

- I. (1) Until such time as the Republic of Moldova
 - (a) Has, in peaceful nuclear activities within its territory or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere, nuclear material in quantities exceeding the limits stated, for the type of material in question, in Article 36 of the Agreement between

the Republic of Moldova and the Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"), or

- (b) Has taken the decision to construct or authorize construction of a facility, as defined in the Definitions,

the implementation of the provisions in Part II of the Agreement shall be held in abeyance, with the exception of Articles 32-38, 40, 48, 49, 59, 61, 67, 68, 70, 72-76, 82, 84-90, 94 and 95.

- (2) The information to be reported pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) of Article 33 of the Agreement may be consolidated and submitted in an annual report; similarly, an annual report shall be submitted, if applicable, with respect to the import and export of nuclear material described in paragraph (c) of Article 33.
- (3) In order to enable the timely conclusion of the Subsidiary Arrangements provided for in Article 38 of the Agreement, the Republic of Moldova shall
 - (a) Notify the Agency sufficiently in advance of its having nuclear material in peaceful nuclear activities within its territory or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere in quantities that exceed the limits, as referred to in section 1 hereof, or
 - (b) Notify the Agency as soon as the decision to construct or to authorize construction of a facility has been taken,whichever occurs first.

If this proposal is acceptable to your Government, this letter and your Government's affirmative reply shall constitute an agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the IAEA to amend the Small Quantities Protocol accordingly, which amendments shall enter into force on the date that the Agency receives that reply.

Accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Vilmos Cserveny

Director

Office of External Relations and Policy

Coordination

for DIRECTOR GENERAL

Cc: Mr. Ionel Balan, Chief of Radiation Safety Board,
Dept. of Standardization and Metrology