Communication dated 1 April 2022 received from the Delegation of the European Union to the International Organizations in Vienna concerning a Joint Statement to the Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

1. The Secretariat has received a communication dated 1 April 2022 from the Delegation of the European Union to the International Organizations in Vienna on behalf of Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, as well as the European Union requesting the Secretariat to bring the communication and its attachment to the attention of all IAEA Member States.

2. As requested, the communication and its attachment are herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.
NOTE VERBALE

The Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and would like to request the IAEA Office of Legal Affairs to circulate the attached Joint Statement as IAEA Information Circular.

The Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 1 April 2022
Joint Statement
Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM)
Vienna, 28 March - 1 April 2022

The Russian Federation’s military aggression against Ukraine constitutes a gross violation of international law, including the UN Charter.

We express our utmost concern over the nuclear safety and security risks that have been caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and that endanger the population of Ukraine, its neighboring countries and the international community.

Russia’s forces have seized control of nuclear facilities where nuclear material is located and damaged buildings in nuclear sites in Ukraine, thereby undermining their safe and secure operation and significantly raising the risk of a nuclear accident or incident.

In this regard, we welcome IAEA Board resolution GOV/2022/17 of 3 March 2022 and fully support the initiative of the IAEA Director General to provide technical assistance for the safe and secure operation of Ukraine’s nuclear facilities.

We recall the IAEA General Conference unanimous decision GC(53)/DEC/13 on attacks on and threats against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes.

We also recall the Preamble of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM) that refers to Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, emphasising that “All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations”.

Furthermore, we recall Article 2.4 (c) of the A/CPPNM stipulating that “nothing in this Convention shall be construed as a lawful authorization to use or threaten to use force against nuclear material or nuclear facilities used for peaceful purposes”.

We reiterate our urgent call for the Russian Federation to immediately stop its unlawful aggression against Ukraine, in order for the competent Ukrainian authorities to preserve and promptly regain full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine’s internationally recognised borders.

We reaffirm our collective commitment to strengthening global nuclear safety and security and to ensuring the universal implementation of nuclear safety and security conventions, notably the A/CPPNM.

We call on the Russian Federation to fully respect the seven indispensable pillars of safety and security, the IAEA Statute, and to cease and desist from any action contravening the letter or spirit of the A/CPPNM.
This statement is issued on behalf of:

Albania
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ecuador
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Latvia

Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Panama
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Republic of North Macedonia
Romania
San Marino
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States of America
Uruguay
as well as the European Union.