

Prohlášení
Statement
Déclaration**(as delivered - 2.3.2009)****STATEMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
ON BEHALF OF THE EU
AT THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
02-06 MARCH 2009****Item 2: „Nuclear Safety Review for the year 2008“****Madam Chairperson,**

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia associate themselves with this statement.

¹ Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Madam Chairperson,

2. The EU would like to commend the Director General and the Secretariat for preparing the draft report *Nuclear Safety Review for the Year 2008*, as contained in document GOV/2009/2.
3. The EU expresses its appreciation of the Agency's dedication and commitment to strengthening nuclear and radiation safety worldwide. We consider it important that the development of nuclear energy takes place in the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions.
4. The report which is in front of us refers to a large number of events and activities organized or co-organized by the IAEA in 2008. These were primarily aimed at sharing information and good practices, and at providing assistance through a variety of safety services, and have contributed to diminishing potential nuclear and radiation safety risks. We would like to praise the Agency for these achievements.
5. As written in the report, there were no serious accidents at nuclear power plants, research reactors or other nuclear facilities in 2008. The vigilance and the efforts of the international community to strengthen nuclear safety regime should, however, continue with undiminished intensity. As noted in the report, there are still challenges in many countries, such as setting up and maintaining effective national safety infrastructures, emergency preparedness and response network, effective regulatory separation and independence, sufficient number of qualified staff in industry and regulatory bodies, new reactor licensing, spent fuel and radioactive waste management, which should be solved. The EU attaches the utmost importance to a high level of nuclear safety worldwide and encourages the Agency and the Member States to intensify international cooperation in this direction, with specific attention to countries which are planning introduction of nuclear technologies for the first time. We are convinced that the IAEA can play an important role in the strengthening of the global nuclear safety and security regime and in this respect it has our full support. For nearly two decades the EU has cooperated with many countries improving nuclear safety under the TACIS and PHARE programs. Under the new Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation the EU is cooperating with the IAEA to assist third countries in improving their nuclear safety culture and the safety of their operating installations.

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6. Protection of people and the environment should be the highest priority for every activity linked with the use of radiation sources. Maintaining comprehensive national registers of radiation sources is essential for effective regulatory control of these sources. Well maintained registers and the application of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radiation Sources nationwide provide solid bases for minimizing radiation risks. As noted in the report, this still remains a challenge in many IAEA Member States. The report also indicates that the majority of radiation-exposed workers are in the medical field. Occupational radiation protection of medical workers and optimization of patient exposure deserve high attention. In this regard we would like to recall that during the 52nd regular session of the General Conference, the IAEA Secretariat and the EU jointly hosted a round-table meeting to exchange views on the issue of medical exposures to ionizing radiation. We note that quality assurance programmes applied in work places with radiation sources have a positive impact on minimizing exposures of medical workers and optimizing patient doses, and we support their wider implementation. The EU encourages the Agency to continue providing assistance to Member States in radiation protection in all relevant areas.

7. Standards are basic pillars for assuring safety in many human activities. Thanks to international cooperation within the IAEA we have, easily available to everyone, a comprehensive set of safety standards which are fundamental for any nuclear programme and nuclear technology application. EU countries participate actively in preparing the IAEA safety standards in expert working groups and in all of the Agency's standard committees and its Commission on Safety Standards. The EU follows with great interest developments in this area and highly values the effort, expertise and professionalism of the Agency's staff and international experts from Member States in creating new, and updating already existing, standards. The EU is considering, in addition to national legislatures, a possible Union-level legal instrument for nuclear installation safety. The newly formed European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) will focus on continuous improvement of nuclear safety requirements in EU Member States, especially with respect to new reactors. The IAEA Safety Fundamentals and Requirements will play an important role in contributing to the development of any European Community nuclear safety framework.

Madam Chairperson

8. International cooperation is crucial for promoting the global nuclear safety and security regime. In this context, the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Conventions on Notification and Assistance, and the Joint Convention are very important instruments. The EU is strongly committed to these Conventions. In accordance with their provisions, the EU has been promoting the establishment and maintenance of a high level of nuclear safety in its Member States.
9. The 4th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, held last year in Vienna, recognized the importance of openness and transparency with respect to nuclear safety. There were many good examples of improvements by regulators and operators cited there. The EU strongly supports these activities and calls on all Member States, contracting parties to the Convention, to actively contribute to this effort.
10. The 3rd Review Meeting of the Joint Convention is planned for May of this year and the EU will actively contribute to its successful course. Preparation and review of national reports, as required by the Convention, have provided good opportunities for self-assessment and peer review, both being effective tools for promoting a strong safety culture in individual countries.
11. Fulfilling the obligations of safety conventions and their review mechanisms help the Contracting Parties to the Convention to maintain a high level of safety. Furthermore, sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices is essential for keeping abreast of the latest developments in relevant fields of activities. The EU calls on all Member States, specifically those which are planning the introduction of nuclear technologies for the first time, to become contracting parties to the relevant safety conventions without delay, if they have not yet done so.

Thank you

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