



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 4-6 June 2012
Agenda item 6: Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear
Safety**

Final

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The Acceding Country Croatia^{*}, the Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Iceland^{**} and Serbia^{*}, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, associate themselves with this statement.
2. The EU and its Member States would like to thank Director General Amano for his report contained in document GOV/INF/2012/10 and DDG Flory for the 25 May technical briefing on activities to implement the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. We very much welcome the regular updates we have been receiving from the Secretariat on this important topic. We further welcome the fact that the 2013 budget proposal has been designed to ensure prompt and effective implementation of activities under the Action Plan and reflects lessons learned from the aftermath of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in March 2011. The EU and its Member States note the importance of continuing cooperation and information sharing between the IAEA, Member States, Operators and other stakeholders to ensure that momentum is maintained to enable the full delivery of all the activities and actions identified in the Plan. We are looking forward to the extraordinary session of the Convention on Nuclear Safety in August 2012 and propose that relevant conclusions from that meeting and other related meetings will be incorporated in the revisions of the Action Plan.

^{*} 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

3. Following the Fukushima accident in Japan, the European Council of 25 March 2011 called for comprehensive risk and safety assessments (stress tests) to be conducted at European nuclear power plants. The European Nuclear Safety Regulators' Group (ENSREG) and the European Commission share the view that the work achieved since the Fukushima accident has been of an exceptional nature from a quantitative and qualitative point of view. The seventeen national reports (fifteen EU countries, Switzerland and the Ukraine) covering all nuclear power plants of the EU and of participating countries have been assessed by 80 reviewers from 24 nations in Europe and the European Commission. ENSREG and the European Commission endorsed on 26 April 2012 the report of the Peer Review Board on the stress tests. The report highlighted four main areas for improvement to be explored across Europe:
 - Issuing the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA) guidance with the contribution of the best available EU expertise on assessment of natural hazards and margins taking account of the existing IAEA guidelines;
 - Underlining the importance of Periodic Safety Reviews ;
 - Implementing the recognised measures to protect containment integrity;
 - Minimizing risks of accidents resulting from natural hazards and limiting their possible consequences.

The Peer Review report will be transmitted to the forthcoming European Council meeting. In a Joint Statement issued on 26 April 2012, ENSREG and the European Commission, recalling that the first phase of this unprecedented exercise was over, agreed to propose an action plan in order to follow the implementation of the recommendations of the Peer Review Report. Possible evolutions of the European legislation, notably the Nuclear Safety Directive, will now be examined by the European Commission and submitted to Member States.

4. The EU and its Member States take note of the progress made in implementing the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety contained in the document before us. We welcome the IAEA participation in topical meetings of the EU concerned with the stress test review.
5. We take note of the on-going review of the IAEA's Response and Assistance Network. A number of EU Member States have registered their emergency response capabilities under RANET and the UK is considering joining. We would encourage other states to lend their support to this important initiative.
6. We welcome the enhancement of the IRRS peer review service to include a more systematic and comprehensive assessment of Member States' emergency preparedness and response. In this context, the EU welcomes

the assistance it is receiving from the IAEA Secretariat in organising IRRS missions to all EU Member States, every 10 years, in line with Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the safety of nuclear installations.

7. The EU and its Member States look forward to receiving a copy of the report on the review of IAEA safety standards which was carried out by the Commission on Safety Standards in March of this year. We would like to express our support for a timely and prioritised review of IAEA safety standards. In addition we would like to see an overall review of the effectiveness of the international nuclear safety framework in order to identify evidence-based, proportionate improvements to nuclear safety world-wide.
8. We welcome IAEA work on supporting capacity building for states embarking on a nuclear power programme. We particularly welcome the review of the guidance publication “Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power” in light of the lessons learned from Fukushima.
9. With these comments we take note of the report on Progress in the Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety as contained in document GOV/INF/2012/10 and look forward to receiving a further update at the September Board.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.