



European Union

**IAEA Board of Governors
29-30 November 2012, Vienna**

Agenda item 3: Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States. The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland** and Serbia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.
2. The EU would like to thank the Secretariat for the report on Progress in the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety contained in GOV/INF/2012/16 and the informative technical briefing on 21 November. We very much welcome the regular updates we have been receiving from the Secretariat on this important topic. 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 consider nuclear and radiation safety to be of the utmost importance and stand ready to assist the Agency in its dedicated efforts.
3. We take note of the progress made in implementing the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety contained in the document before us. In the next progress report, the addition of expected timelines for completion of the Action Plan's provisions and also of an evaluation on how effective the activities have been to date would greatly assist us with planning for future work in this important area.
4. The EU and its Member States welcome IAEA plans to present reports from the three first international experts meetings (IEMs) at the Fukushima Ministerial Conference to be held from 15-17 December in Japan. We highlight the importance of ensuring that protection against extreme earthquakes and tsunamis is taken into account at the site-selection and design phase of a nuclear power plant. We look forward to the publication of the results of the

* 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

July 2012 Agency-led international experts mission (IEM) to Japan to examine the effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake on the structure, systems and components important for safety at the Onagawa Nuclear Power Station.

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. We would encourage other states to lend their support to this important initiative.
6. We welcome the enhancement of the IRRS peer review service. We note that the "Fukushima module", which addresses the regulatory implications of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident, has recently been updated. In this context EU Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the safety of nuclear installations makes it a requirement for all EU Member States to host peer reviews every 10 years.
7. We note that in October this year the Commission on Safety Standards considered the overall process for a review of the standards, which confirmed the adequacy of most of the requirements and guides, only highlighting the need to revise a small set of safety standards in light of the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi review. We would like to further express our support for a timely and prioritised review of the standards.
8. The EU and its Member States played an active and constructive role in the second Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety which took place in Vienna from 27-31 August. We welcome the conclusions of the meeting. Some technical conclusions require further work for their practical implementation into IAEA Safety Standards. We further note and welcome the establishment of the effectiveness and transparency Working Group which will recommend proposals to strengthen the Convention which will be considered at the 2014 review meeting and we are committed to actively participate to this Working Group.
9. Mr Chairman, the development by States of new nuclear power programmes continues to present challenges for the international community. We call on all Member States, especially those planning to embark on a nuclear power programme or having recently commissioned an NPP for the first time, to become contracting parties to the relevant conventions, in particular the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management without delay. Furthermore, we encourage them to commit to the highest level of safety by implementing IAEA safety standards and by hosting IAEA Peer Reviews such as the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) and Site and External Events Design (SEED).
10. The EU and its Member States consider it vital that those Member States receiving assistance from the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme comply with the necessary IAEA safety requirements, as laid out in the IAEA Statute.
11. 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. Based on the

results, the EU and its Member States are now taking action and implementing various measures in the light of Lessons Learned from the Fukushima-Daiichi accident. In parallel the European Commission is examining the potential enhancement of European legislation, which will be considered by EU Member States. In addition, the EU is continuing with efforts to cooperate with neighbouring and third countries to enhance nuclear safety.

12. With these comments the EU and its Member States take note of the report on Progress in the Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and look forward to receiving further updates at future Boards

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.