



## European Union

### Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors

Vienna, 9 -13 September 2013

#### Agenda Item 7 (a): Application of Safeguards in the Middle East

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. [The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey<sup>§</sup>, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland<sup>‡</sup>, Serbia\*, Albania\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Liechtenstein<sup>†</sup>, Norway<sup>†</sup>, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.]

It remains a strategic priority of the EU to support peace and stability in the entire Middle East. The EU therefore reaffirms its full support for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East, an objective supported ever since the Barcelona Declaration of 1995.

The EU regrets that it was not possible last year to convene a Conference, to be attended by all States of the region, on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East.

The EU remains fully committed to the objective of establishing such a zone. In that regard, we commend Ambassador Laajava and his team for their

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<sup>§</sup> Candidate Country

\* Candidate Countries former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as potential Candidate Countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>‡</sup> Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

<sup>†</sup> Norway and Liechtenstein are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

tireless efforts to lay the groundwork for a successful Conference with the participation of all States of the region, including through consultations to prepare for the Conference to ensure its arrangements are freely arrived at by the States of the region. We have constantly called on all parties concerned to continue to work and engage constructively with the Facilitator, the co-conveners and each other to this end.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.