



## European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors  
9 - 13 September 2013, Vienna  
Agenda item 4: Nuclear Security**

Mr Chairman,

1. 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<sup>\*</sup>, Montenegro<sup>\*</sup>, Iceland<sup>‡</sup>, Serbia<sup>\*</sup>, Albania<sup>\*</sup>, Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>\*</sup>, Liechtenstein<sup>+</sup>, Norway<sup>+</sup>, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.]
2. The EU welcomes the Director-General's Report on Nuclear Security as an important tool for reviewing the Agency's activities under the Nuclear Security Plan for 2010-2013, as well as the Nuclear Security Plan for 2014-2017. Despite significant efforts to improve nuclear security, challenges still exist. The EU considers that the proposed plan can significantly contribute to strengthening nuclear security worldwide.

Mr. Chairman

3. The EU reaffirms that the responsibility for nuclear security rests with each individual State. All States have the responsibility to establish appropriate systems and to take necessary measures to deter, detect, delay and respond to unauthorized access to nuclear and other radioactive material. The EU fully recognizes the central role of the IAEA as well as its competence in strengthening the nuclear security framework.

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<sup>§</sup> Candidate Country

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

4. The EU fully supports the Agency in its tireless efforts to strengthen international cooperation and to improve nuclear security worldwide. We welcome the recent steps by the Agency to strengthen its Nuclear Security Programme, in particular the upgrade of the Office of Nuclear Security to a Division. We would like to commend the Secretariat for the successful "*International Conference on Nuclear Security: enhancing global efforts*", which was held in Vienna in July 2013 which represented an important milestone in further enhancing international cooperation in the field of Nuclear Security.
5. The EU also commends the Agency for its activities to promote adherence to, and implementation of, the international legal instruments relevant to nuclear security, and in particular to facilitate the entry into force as soon as possible of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.
6. The EU supports the Agency's efforts to strengthen and to play a constructive role in its interaction with other international organisations, processes and initiatives, such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the 1540 Committee, the UN Counter Terrorism Task Force and the Nuclear Security Summits organized in 2010 and 2012, and the one to be held in The Hague in 2014.
7. The IAEA's nuclear security related activities are in line with the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The EU is a key donor to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund, with more than 30 million EUR committed so far through five successive Council Decisions. Through this contribution, around 100 countries in four continents have been supported, with more than 450 tasks implemented. We are discussing new projects to further strengthen our longstanding and fruitful cooperation with the IAEA in the area of Nuclear Security.

M. Chairman

8. The EU recognises the establishment of the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC) as a major step to increase transparency, consensus, quality, coherence and consistency by engaging more Member States in the development of IAEA publications for nuclear security. Taking into account the long list of implementing guides under preparation, we consider that the identification and regular review of drafting priorities in the publication plan is of the utmost importance.
9. The EU underlines the importance of the IAEA's Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans for assisting States to establish comprehensive

programmes of nuclear security improvements, as well as enabling improved coordination by the Agency with the States concerned. We encourage Member States to make further use of this structured and holistic approach to nuclear security capacity building.

10. The IAEA's Nuclear Security Peer Reviews are essential tools to assist Member States in evaluating their nuclear security regimes. In this regard the EU welcomes the increased recognition of IPPAS missions by Member States and is looking forward to the organisation of the first international seminar on IPPAS missions to be hosted in Paris in December 2013.

11. The EU welcomes and supports the Agency's activities in the areas of capacity building, training and education. Thanks to the EU contribution, the Agency was able to organise 120 training courses with 2,500 participants and, establish 6 Nuclear Security Supports Centres. The EU is working closely with the Agency to avoid duplication of activities relating to the radiological and nuclear components of the EU regional centres of excellence for the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear areas.

Mr. Chairman

12. Finally, we would like to confirm our understanding of the Recommended Action d of the Nuclear Security Report for 2013. As we can not "call upon" States to implement non-legally binding instruments, our interpretation of the action recommended is an encouragement to States to do so as stated in the Ministerial Declaration.

13. With these comments, the EU takes note of the Nuclear Security Report 2013 in GOV/2013/36 and supports its recommended actions. The EU further takes note of the Nuclear Security Plan for 2014-2017 in GOV/2013/42.

Thank you Mr Chairman.