



## European Union

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

Vienna, 9 - 13 September 2013

#### Agenda item 5: Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications

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 annual report on the "Agency's Activities related to Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications (GOV/2013/32)", which outlines the assistance the Agency is providing to its Member States in human health, water resources, agriculture, and nuclear energy, including developments in nuclear technology innovations, small and medium sized reactors (SMRs) and nuclear infrastructures.
3. We appreciate the activities of the Agency to promote nuclear science and technology, as well as its on-going efforts to increase the contribution of their applications to peace, health and economic development to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
4. The EU welcomes the Secretariat's decision to relocate in 2014 the PACT Programme Office to the Department of Technical Cooperation, in order to respond to increasing demands from Member States for PACT services, such as impACT reviews, which assess Member States' readiness to develop and implement long-term radiation medicine capacity building

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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.

plans, including the relevant safety, regulatory and quality assurance requirements.

5. We commend the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of nuclear techniques in food and agriculture for pursuing the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) programme, in cooperation with international organisations, to combat *inter alia* Tsetse flies and Trypanosomosis in African countries. The SIT programme, together with the associated technical cooperation projects, receives contributions from EU Member States.
6. The EU welcomes the Agency's efforts directed towards the fuller use of isotopes and nuclear techniques, in interested countries, for water resources development and management, through appropriate programmes and coordinated research projects that improve the understanding of the water cycle and climate change. We would like to avail ourselves of the opportunity to commend the Director General for dedicating the 2013 IAEA's Scientific Forum, starting next week, to "*the blue planet and nuclear applications for a sustainable marine environment*".
7. The EU welcomes the Agency's efforts directed towards the fuller use of isotopes and nuclear techniques in interested countries for cultural heritage preservation.
8. The EU takes note that technical assessments have been initiated with specialists to study the options for modernizing the IAEA's eight 50-years-old Nuclear Applications Laboratories in Seibersdorf, and looks forward to the presentation of the detailed strategic plan for this modernization project, including updated cost estimates, timelines, options and design concepts.

Mr. Chairman,

9. While recognising that each country has a sovereign right to decide its own energy mix, the EU notes that according to the DG's report and the outcomes of both the Doha Conference of the Parties (COP18) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the St-Petersburg Ministerial Conference, nuclear power will remain an important option to achieve energy security and sustainable development goals in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, not only for countries with existing nuclear programmes, but also for developing countries with growing energy requirements.
10. We take note of the Agency's activities on seawater nuclear desalination, encouraging studies on advanced low temperature desalination systems to support nuclear power plants and re-assessing the economics of SMRs and large NPPs for single purpose or cogeneration nuclear desalination.
11. The EU acknowledges that the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), which now has 39 Members, including the EC and eleven EU Member States, highlighting the role of innovations

and international cooperation when transitioning to 4<sup>th</sup> generation nuclear energy systems, such as fast reactors, that preserve nuclear material, restrain the accumulation of used fuel and enhance proliferation resistance.

12. The EU takes note of the progress made in the research, development, demonstration and deployment of SMRs in interested Member States (131 SMR units being in operation in 26 Member States), and the progress made in the implementation of the Agency's activities in the development of innovative nuclear technology, incorporating the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

13. The EU welcomes the efforts made by the Agency, especially through the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure review missions and the Integrated Work Plans, established with interested Member States, to support them in assessing all relevant aspects of their national infrastructure before commissioning their first nuclear power plant, including legal, financial, social, engineering, safety, security and safeguards.
14. With these comments, the EU takes note of the Director General's annual report on the "Agency's Activities related to Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications, as contained in GOV/2013/32.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.