



## European Union

IAEA Board of Governors  
9-13 September 2013, Vienna

**Agenda item 3(a): “Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety”**

**Agenda item 3 (b): “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 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 would like to thank the Director General for his annual Report on Measures to Strengthen International Cooperation in Nuclear, Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety contained in GOV/2013/31. We acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the IAEA to nuclear safety.
3. The EU and its Member States take note of the many areas on which the Agency has worked in the last year and welcome, in particular, the co-sponsorship of the Ministerial Conference organised by Japan in the Fukushima Prefecture in December 2012. The broad attendance of Ministers, heads of organisations and international experts underlines the huge importance that we all attach to strengthening nuclear safety. We look forward to completion of the comprehensive Report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident in 2014.
4. We would also like to recall that the EU and its Member States have undertaken ambitious complementary safety assessments (“stress tests”) of all European nuclear power plants in the light of the Fukushima-Daiichi accident, and provided recommendations for safety improvements. Each EU Member State now implements an action plan under the umbrella of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators’ Group (ENSREG). We would encourage all States operating or planning to operate nuclear power plants to perform similar “stress-tests”, and to implement the necessary follow-up actions.

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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.

5. We welcome the Agency's continuing work on Regulatory Frameworks to support nuclear safety, including the staging of an International Conference in Ottawa, Canada in April 2013, the expert and scientific missions implemented under national TC projects, and the continued evolution of the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS). Every EU Member State has a legal obligation to invite an international peer review of relevant segments of their national framework and/or authorities with the aim of continuously improving nuclear safety every ten years. We also recall that, under the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, each MS with nuclear power plants should voluntarily host at least one OSART mission during the three year period. We would like to encourage all IAEA Member States to explore benefits and to use all types of IAEA peer review services to improve nuclear safety.
6. We would also like to recall that the support of the EU for nuclear safety and radiation protection, through its Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) and Instrument for Pre-Accession, has been € 559 million over the period 2007–2013.

Mr Chairman,

7. 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 a nuclear power plant for the first time, to become contracting parties to the relevant conventions, without delay. Having considered the operational stage of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, the EU and its Member States invite Iran to ratify the Convention on Nuclear Safety. We also are looking forward to the report of the Working group on Effectiveness and Transparency of the Convention on Nuclear Safety on possible actions to strengthen the convention.
8. Mr Chairman, 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/2013/8. We welcome the implementation progress of the Action Plan. We note the activities that have been undertaken, as well as those planned for the coming year.
9. The EU and its Member States welcome the continuing support given to Member States in nuclear power plant safety, stresses the importance of publication of key documents following the International Experts Meetings. We are pleased that detailed guidelines on multiple external natural hazards are being drawn up. We also look forward to the report on safety margins and the report on the influence of human and organisational aspects on nuclear safety in nuclear power plants. The lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi disaster have wide-reaching implications for future nuclear safety, safety culture and nuclear energy.
10. We acknowledge and commend the IAEA for its ongoing commitment to Safety Standards across the board, including the proposals to strengthen Safety Requirements following the Fukushima Daiichi accident. We look forward to further updates from the Secretariat on these important measures as they progress.

11. We commend the Agency on the Dedicated Action Plan projects contained in the 2014-15 budget to implement the major Nuclear Safety Programmes. The use of timelines and evaluation tools for activities, including qualitative evaluation, are extremely useful in planning future work and we encourage the Agency to further review and improve the relevance of the first evaluation tools provided.

12. We are grateful to the Agency's work in emergency response area. A number of EU Member States have already registered their emergency response capabilities under the Response and Assistance Network (RANET) and we have also encouraged other Member States to do the same.

13. 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 of the implementation progress.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.