



European Union

Statement of Hungary on Behalf of the European Union

Fifth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Convention on Nuclear Safety 4 – 15 April 2011

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety that are Members of the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and of the European Union.

2. Allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the Fifth Review Meeting. I wish you and your two Vice-Presidents every success in your stewardship of this meeting and I assure you that you will enjoy our full cooperation in your efforts to guide this meeting to a successful conclusion.

3. At the opening of the 5th Review Meeting of the Convention, on Nuclear Safety, our thoughts and sympathy are with Japan and the Japanese people. In the aftermath of the earthquake and Tsunami of 11th March 2011, the developments at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant have shown in a drastic manner the importance of nuclear safety.

4. At a high level meeting convened on 15 March in response to the developments in Japan, EU policy-makers and regulators envisaged new elements in the approach to nuclear safety that would involve comprehensive safety and risk assessments in Europe. The European Council on 25 March called for work to be taken forward as a matter of priority on a review of the safety of all EU nuclear plants on the basis of a comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessment ("stress tests"). The stress tests will be conducted by independent national authorities and through peer review. The outcome and any necessary subsequent measures will be made public. The European Nuclear Safety Regulatory Group (ENSREG) and the Commission were invited to develop as soon as possible the scope and modalities of these tests in the light of lessons learned from the accident in Japan and with the full involvement of the Member States, making full use of available expertise from the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association. The European Council will assess initial findings by the end of 2011, on the basis of a report from the Commission.

5. Likewise, as the priority of ensuring the safety of nuclear power plants obviously cannot stop at our borders, the European Council has called for similar "stress tests" to be carried out in the neighbouring countries and worldwide, for both existing and

planned nuclear plants with the involvement of the IAEA and other relevant international organisations.

In addition, it asked the European Commission to review the European existing legal and regulatory framework for the safety of nuclear installations and will propose by the end of 2011 any improvements that may be necessary.

6. The EU reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the continuous improvement of nuclear safety standards and on 25 June 2009, the EU became the first regional actor to provide a legally binding framework on nuclear safety through the European Council Directive establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations. At the European Council on 4 February 2011, the EU agreed it should take initiatives in line with the treaties in the relevant international fora on all subjects of common interest, such as energy security, safe and sustainable low carbon technologies, energy efficiency, the investment environment maintaining and promoting the highest standards for nuclear safety.

7. In this context we are committed to the universalisation of relevant Nuclear Safety Instruments and IAEA nuclear safety standards. The EU calls on all states who have not yet done so to become party to the Conventions on Nuclear Safety, -on the Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, - on Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, -on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment, and to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

The EU welcomes the announcement by IAEA Director General Amano to hold a Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety to be held in Vienna from June 20 to 24, 2011. The conference provides an opportunity to make first assessments and start a lessons-learned process in the light of the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. It should launch a process in the course of which also the legal framework regarding nuclear safety must be reviewed. The EU is ready to actively contribute to all efforts to strengthen the international framework, especially in the areas of nuclear safety, nuclear liability and radiological protection.

8. At this point in time, 17 years after the first signatures, the CNS has become a cornerstone in international efforts to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety, to establish and maintain effective protection against radiological hazards in order to protect people and the environment, and to prevent nuclear accidents or limit their consequences. The Convention on Nuclear Safety has reached a broad level of adherence, with 72 State Parties. All Member States of the European Union and EURATOM are Contracting Parties to this Convention, demonstrating the EU's commitment to the application of the fundamental safety principles for nuclear installations.

9. The EU strongly supports implementation of the concept of the Peer Review Process of the Convention at regular intervals, aimed at steadily improving safety worldwide. The EU expects Parties to report on implementation of the Convention and on compiling lessons learned from the peer review process, with suggestions for implementing improvements and good practices. The EU believes that it is important to strengthen the involvement of all the stakeholders, Governments, Industry and of

course the public at large. Taking into account the risks and challenges of nuclear power, it is in the view of the EU that the review process has to be adapted to a rapidly evolving environment, in order to meet transparency expectations of stakeholders.

10. The EU calls on the Signatory States that are not yet parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to ratify this Convention. The EU also encourages other Member States - in particular those with plans to start a nuclear programme - to become a Contracting Party to the CNS before they start building their nuclear facilities. This is even more important for States that are about to commission a nuclear power plant. Iran is the only country with a nuclear power plant, almost in operation, without being a contracting party to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. The EU calls on Iran to accede to the Convention.

11. Notwithstanding the principle of national responsibility in the area of nuclear safety, the EU recognises the important role which the Agency plays in the area of nuclear safety. The EU encourages the Agency to pursue its technical cooperation activities in the area of nuclear safety and expresses its readiness to cooperate in this field.

I thank you Mr. President.