

Prohlášení
Statement
Déclaration**(final version – 3.3.2009 – as delivered)****STATEMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
AT THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
02-06 MARCH 2009****Item 3: „Strengthening the Agency’s activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications: Nuclear Technology Review 2009”.**

Madam Chairperson,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.
2. The EU thanks the Director General and the Secretariat for preparing the draft report on Nuclear Technology Review 2009, as contained in the document GOV/2009/3, which outlines the global status and trends in fields of nuclear science and technology. We would also like to thank DDG Sokolov and DDG Burkart for their presentations at the technical briefing on 24 February.

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3. At present the world seems to be fully engaged in solving global economic and financial crises. Nevertheless the issues related to, for instance, tracing water resources, human health and the environment still prevail. There is a great variety of tools for addressing these problems and nuclear technology and techniques could contribute to them.

4. The EU recognizes that nuclear science and technology can contribute to the development in Member States and appreciates the Agency's activities and efforts in this area. There is a broad range of peaceful nuclear applications the Agency is dealing with, and I would like to touch upon only some examples.

5. Radiation sources are crucial for certain methods in medicine, industrial applications and agriculture. Therefore the EU is concerned about the security of supply of radioisotope. The experience from 2008 has shown disruptions of the market with radioisotopes for vital medical and industrial applications. Significant shortage of Molybdenum-99 in Europe and other regions due to concurrent unavailability of three out of five research reactors in the world, caused delays in patient services in nuclear medicine centres. As the long term outages of important research reactor centres have far-reaching impact on medical treatments and diagnoses for patients around the world, the EU notes that no new research reactors that could specifically address this important issue are likely to start until at least 2014 and appreciates the DG's view that there is an urgent need to expand geographically well-distributed research reactor irradiation capacity and increase the number of processing facilities for the production of Molybdenum-99. Also better coordination of and forward planning by all stakeholders is essential to avoid such situations in future.

6. Nuclear applications and techniques in the field of medicine are important areas for the EU, inter alia for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Many regions of the world do not yet fully benefit from such techniques. The PACT programme and technical cooperation projects in this area received large contributions from EU Member States in 2008.

7. With reference to the reported decrease in the number of research reactors by approximately 50 % by 2020 and its impact for example on medical research and applications, the EU associates itself with the DG's opinion that international cooperation and networking should be strengthened among their operators in order to ensure a broad access to reactor services as well as their efficient use.

8. As regards nuclear and other radioactive materials, the EU has always attached high importance to their enhanced security and supports all activities aimed at reducing the threat of their possible misuse. We are therefore pleased to note that within the Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors (RERTR) Programme implemented under the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI), 62 research reactors operating with HEU were shut down or converted to LEU fuel by the end of 2008. We also note that another 39 are planned for conversion using existing qualified LEU fuels and that for additional 28 research reactors, advanced (*very high density advanced uranium-molybdenum*) LEU fuels still needs to be developed and qualified.

9. The EU also commends the Agency for its activities aimed at strengthening efficiency in agriculture. We note that the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) has helped, in some countries of the European Region, to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly) which is one of the world's most destructive farm pests. We also appreciate Agency's cooperation with the FAO in this field and the activities that have been carried out by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division.

10. Concerns in particular over energy security have encouraged many countries to re-examine their energy policies. The EU recognises that it is the sovereign right of any country to decide its own energy mix. The EU notes that in 2008 and early 2009 new plans for the construction of nuclear power reactors were announced in several regions. As for Europe the countries concerned are United Kingdom, Italy, Romania, Finland, Slovakia and France.

11. The EU continues to seek to ensure that those countries which choose to develop nuclear power programmes do so responsibly and with the highest level of safety, security and non-proliferation. . In this context it is important to recognize and adequately deal with associated challenges, particularly nuclear safety and security, adequate human resources and infrastructure, waste and spent-fuel management. The EU has been providing extensive assistance and investments to meet these objectives. The EU considers that the IAEA, as the preeminent internationally-mandated body in this field, through its safety standards and its safeguards system, remains best placed to encourage and facilitate the responsible use of this energy source.

Madame Chairperson,

12. It is a pleasure for me to inform you that the fourth meeting of the EU Nuclear Energy Forum, covering a wide range of relevant topics will take place on the 28 and 29 of May 2009 in Prague.

13. The EU is supporting research and development in nuclear technologies through the EURATOM 7th Framework Programme. Nuclear fusion also seems to be a promising future source of needed energy. The EU supports the pursuit of this technology through financial, human and technology resources. One of the best examples of doing so is a joint ITER project currently being realized in France.

Thank you