



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 7 - 11 September 2015**

Agenda item 3: Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey[§], the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Iceland[‡], Serbia^{*}, Albania^{*}, Bosnia and Herzegovina^{*}, Norway⁺, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, San Marino and Armenia.
2. The EU would like to thank the Secretariat for the 31 August technical briefing covering the reports on Measures to Strengthen International Cooperation in Nuclear, Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety, and Progress in the Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. We encourage IAEA Member States to report on lessons learned from the Action Plan and actions taken to improve nuclear safety.
3. The EU and its Member States continue to acknowledge the central role of the Agency in strengthening the global nuclear safety and security framework. We consider it vital that the development and use of nuclear energy take place under the most rigorous safety conditions. The IAEA Report on the Fukushima accident is also an important contribution to strengthening nuclear safety. We look forward to the publication of the five detailed technical volumes on which the report draws.
4. Noting that the effects of a nuclear accident can go beyond national borders, we encourage close cooperation, coordination and information exchange between States. We attach the utmost importance to the strengthening of international coordination in the field of nuclear emergency preparedness and response. We continue to support the Director General in encouraging all Member States to become Contracting Parties to the Conventions related to Nuclear Safety.

[§] Candidate Country

^{*} Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

[‡] Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

⁺ Norway is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

5. The EU and its Member States continue to be concerned that only sixty-one of sixty-nine Contracting Parties attended the fifth Review Meeting under the Joint Convention held in Vienna this May. National Reports were provided by sixty-five Contracting Parties. Eleven Reports were posted late. Some Contracting Parties did not respond to written questions. The EU and its Member States will continue to support states to participate actively in the review process, as required by the Joint Convention, including through the EU Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation.
6. The collaboration between the EU and the IAEA in Radioactive Waste Management, including disused sealed sources, and in spent nuclear fuel management, as well as in decommissioning and remediation programmes, was reinforced in 2014 by a 1.2 million Euro cooperation agreement. We continue to call on the IAEA to work on harmonising trans-border issues concerning scrap metal containing radioactive material.
7. We welcome the continued interest in, and the support for, the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and its Supplementary Guidance on their Import and Export. We are particularly pleased that more States have made a political commitment to that end.

Madam Chair,

8. Through the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety, the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety have committed themselves to ensure that new nuclear power plants are designed and constructed following more stringent safety objectives. They will periodically review, and continuously improve, the safety of existing plants through the introduction of proportionate and appropriate safety upgrades. We will give serious attention to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration by all Contracting Parties, in particular during the next review meetings of the Convention.
9. We would like to thank the Secretariat for its two reports on IRRS missions between 2006 and 2013, initiated within the cooperation agreement between the Agency and the European Commission.
10. We would like to recall that the European Commission is a partner organisation in the IAEA's Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network, and that the European Nuclear Safety Regulators' Group, the European Technical Safety Organisations Network and the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association are also regional networks within the Network.
11. We continue to look forward to the IAEA progress report on its revision of the 2002 International Action Plan for the Radiation Protection of Patients and we recall the Joint Position Statement of the IAEA and the WHO, the "Bonn Call for Action".
12. Many Member States are still building their regulatory infrastructure. As some have requested aid and support, the EU has prioritised assistance to Nuclear Regulators and Technical Safety Organisations through its Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. Through this instrument we will support third countries with 224 million Euro over the period 2014 to 2020.

IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety

Madam Chair,

13. The EU would like to thank the Secretariat for the fourth and last report on Progress in the Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and its supplementary information. The EU and its Member States have made full use of the tools contained in the Action Plan and we appreciate the Secretariat's continued commitment to implement the Plan. We consider it vital to maintain the momentum and to follow an integrated nuclear safety approach also after the expiry of the Action Plan.
14. The EU and its Member States take full advantage of the Agency's Safety Peer Review Missions. According to the Director General's report on the progress in the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, the IAEA conducted during the reporting period 47 safety-related peer review missions in 30 Member States, out of which 17 missions were conducted in 10 EU Member States. We encourage all IAEA Member States to request such missions, in particular the IRRS and OSART missions, and to develop effective Severe Accident Management Guidelines, as proposed by the IAEA.
15. Regarding recent developments in Japan's nuclear programme, the EU notes that in July 2015 the IAEA conducted an OSART mission in Japan, the first time after the Fukushima Daiichi accident. An IRRS Mission to Japan is scheduled for the near future. The IAEA OSART team to Japan included experts from 6 EU Member States. We appreciate ongoing and future efforts of Japan in strengthening nuclear safety, which has contributed to the restart of the first Nuclear Power Plant since the Fukushima Daiichi accident.
16. We look forward to an evaluation by the Secretariat of the effectiveness of the activities under the Action Plan in improving nuclear safety, which will be important in considering a multi-annual strategic plan for nuclear safety. We further invite the Secretariat to share its strategy for integrating the outcomes into the Agency's regular programme.
17. The EU and its Member States will continue to work towards improving nuclear safety, including through our support to the Agency.

Thank you, Madam Chair.