



## **European Union**

**Statement by**

**Mr Andras Kos, Minister Counsellor,  
Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

**Second Session of the Preparatory Committee to the NPT**

**(Geneva, 22 April – 3 May 2013)**

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**Cluster III**

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**Geneva, 30 April 2013**

**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

**Second Session of the Preparatory Committee to the NPT**  
**Geneva, 22 April-3 May 2013**  
**Statement by the European Union – Cluster III**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The following countries align themselves with this declaration: Croatia<sup>1</sup>, Turkey<sup>§</sup>, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland<sup>‡</sup>, Serbia\*, Albania\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia.

The EU reaffirms its support for the inalienable right of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I, II and III of the Treaty. The European Union is strongly committed to the objectives of Article IV. Through multilateral and bilateral cooperation programmes, the EU supports many peaceful and beneficial applications of nuclear technology, in particular in developing countries.

The EU recalls that the conditions laid down by the NPT for the exercise of the right to use nuclear energy are: the observance of non-proliferation commitments, the implementation of IAEA safeguards and the pursuit, in accordance with the good-faith principle, of purely peaceful purposes.

Following the adoption by consensus of the Action Plan set out in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the EU and its Member States have, and are continuing to address further international co-operation, based on the safe and secure development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Conscious of the obligations under Article IV of the Treaty, the EU and its Member States are open to cooperation with all interested countries within this framework, while ensuring that sensitive technologies and goods are not disseminated for purposes other than peaceful ones.

The European Union remains committed to helping those countries wishing to develop in a responsible way their capacities in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy with a view to ensuring the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions. We stress the key role played by the IAEA in this regard and reaffirm our willingness to promote, as a universally accepted international verification standard, the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with the Additional Protocol.

With regard to support to the IAEA, the EU has continued to develop the partnership arrangements with the IAEA through the EU's regional System for Accountancy and Control, EURATOM Safeguards, with the objective of promoting transparency and mutual confidence. We continued to support actively the Agency's safeguards system through, inter alia, the EC Safeguards Support Programme with an average of € 3.3 million per year and the support from some EU member States. Furthermore, the EU contributed € 10 million towards

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<sup>1</sup> Acceding Country Croatia and the 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

<sup>‡</sup> Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

modernising the IAEA Safeguards Analytical Laboratory (SAL). The European Union also provided the Agency with technology and expertise from the EC's Joint Research Centre and its institutes at Ispra (Italy), Geel (Belgium) and Karlsruhe (Germany) in many technical areas related to the effective implementation of safeguards verification measures.

In this context, we would like to draw attention to a side event which is to take place tomorrow, the main topic of which is the EURATOM System of Nuclear Accountancy and Verification Mechanism.

The EU and its Member States are strong supporters of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme. We value the Agency's role in the responsible development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology in the areas of human health, food and agriculture, water resources, environment, preservation of cultural heritage, nuclear and radiation safety, and nuclear energy in participating Member States. The European Union supports both the IAEA, and cooperation with third countries, in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology with a total amount of at least € 150 million per year. Part of this funding is implemented in third countries through the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Fund, to which the EU and its Member States are one of the largest contributors.

On 25 January 2013, a first senior level meeting took place bringing together officials from the EU and the IAEA to discuss enhanced cooperation and follow up steps between the two organizations.

Through the EU Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC), up to €524 million was allocated over the period 2007-2013 to the promotion of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear materials in third countries. This instrument finances projects in the field of safety in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Latin America, South East Asia, Northern Africa and the Middle East. The Instrument for Pre-Accession has financed similar activities in those countries that are candidates for EU membership: more than €35 million was allocated over the same period to these countries, mainly to radiation protection. The EU aims to pursue its support to nuclear safety worldwide through the INSC over the period 2014-2020 and should soon conclude negotiations on the regulation establishing this new INSC Programme.

The European Union and its Member States fully support the key role played by the IAEA in the field of nuclear safety and the importance of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety adopted at the IAEA General Conference in 2011. In light of the Fukushima accident, Member States of the EU undertook, as a matter of priority, a review of the safety of all European Union nuclear power plants on the basis of a comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessment ("stress tests"). The stress tests were overseen by independent national regulatory authorities and the reports on the outcomes and subsequent measures were made public. We encourage other countries to perform risk and safety assessments for nuclear power plants in operation and under construction in cooperation with the Agency.

The EU stresses that responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy depends on creating the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions, in accordance with IAEA standards. In this context, the EU invites IAEA Member States to host Integrated Regulatory Review Service and other peer review missions and to conduct national reviews on a regular basis.

The European Union remains firmly convinced of the benefits of multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. In line with the NPT conclusions on this matter, the EU welcomes the steps taken to establish an IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank. The EU is committed to supporting the future LEU Bank under IAEA auspices with up to € 25 million, of which a financial amount of € 20 million has been already transferred to the Agency.

The European Union stresses the need to do everything possible to prevent the risks of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists. In this context, we stress the need for compliance with obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1887 (2009), and call for improved nuclear security for high activity radioactive sources. The EU has provided support since 2004 with more than € 34.5 million in this regard. Consistent with the longstanding and significant support provided by the EU to global nuclear security efforts, the EU and its Member States have been actively contributing to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 and fully support the key role of the IAEA. The EU welcomes the invitation by the IAEA to a Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security in July 2013 and we encourage NPT State Parties to support this initiative. Preventing nuclear terrorism by continuously improving the security of nuclear materials is a global challenge that indeed requires a global platform.

The EU participates in or contributes to other initiatives such as the Proliferation Security Initiative, the G8 Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, as well as the NSS process, and is looking forward to the preparations for the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, in 2014.

Effective physical protection is of the utmost importance in preventing nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists or accidental misuse, and to protect nuclear facilities against unauthorised use and malicious acts. The EU therefore urges all States that have not yet done so, to become party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its amendment. In addition, we call on the States parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material to ratify as soon as possible the amendment to the Convention, in order to expedite its entry into force.

We underline the importance of continuing international cooperation in order to strengthen nuclear safety, the management of waste in a safe and secure way, radiological protection and civil nuclear liability, and call upon states that have not yet done so to accede to all the relevant conventions as soon as possible and to implement fully the ensuing commitments.

The EU believes that strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime constitutes an important element in the further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. The EU thus calls on all NPT State Parties to be united in recommending to the 2015 RevCon concrete measures for ensuring a responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, under the best safety, security, and non-proliferation conditions, by countries who wish to launch or develop capacities in this field.