

Statement by the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania

H. E. Jaroslav Neverovič

at the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants,

Let me now say a few words in my national capacity.

Lithuania has a longstanding experience in developing peaceful nuclear energy and securing nuclear materials. We strongly support global efforts to strengthen nuclear security, secure all vulnerable materials around the world, and to develop mechanisms allowing states to gain more confidence about each other security arrangements without compromising existing national nuclear security structures.

State Nuclear Power Safety Inspectorate, which is the regulatory body for the nuclear safety and nuclear security of nuclear facilities in Lithuania, is actively taking part in various IAEA outreach programmes by sending its experts to IAEA missions and trainings; it also participates in the preparation of IAEA Nuclear Security Series documents. In 2012 Lithuania's State Nuclear Power Safety Inspectorate updated and approved requirements for physical protection of nuclear facilities, nuclear materials and nuclear fuel cycle material.

Within the framework of international cooperation, including Global Threat Reduction Initiative, the Radiation Protection Centre and other relevant Lithuanian institutions have strengthened their capabilities in the area of emergency preparedness and warning on potential ill-willed use of nuclear or radioactive materials.

As a newcomer to the Nuclear Security Summits Lithuania participated in the Seoul Summit in 2012 and supported joint statements on Nuclear Security Training and Support Centers, and on Activity and Cooperation to Counter Nuclear Smuggling.

Implementing our commitments we have established the Nuclear Security Centre of Excellence. The Centre organizes trainings for competent national and foreign agencies on countering smuggling of nuclear materials and other sources of ionizing radiation. Since its launch in April last year, the center has already organized 10 training events for more than 200 participants.

The Centre successfully develops its activities thanks to vivid cooperation with various international partners, including International Atomic Energy Agency, U. S. Second Line of Defense program, U.S. Export Control and Related Border Security program, Japan's Integrated Support Centre for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Nuclear Security and others. Using this opportunity, I would like to express our greatest appreciation to our partners for their very valuable support.

One of the main visions of the Centre is to become regional. To achieve this goal, the Centre will convene in November this year an outreach project for representatives from relevant law enforcement agencies of Georgia; next year we will engage with other interested countries.

Seeking to gain experience and develop its capabilities the Centre is participating in the activity of the IAEA's International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centers, which constitutes very useful platform for relevant institutions to collaborate and exchange best practices in this field.

In addition, in February this year, an interagency working group has been established by the decree of the Prime Minister. The Group will address nuclear security issues in Lithuania, set guidelines for the Centre of Excellence, review and propose amendments to the existing legal framework on countering nuclear smuggling and improving interagency cooperation, exchange information and coordinate activities while cooperating with foreign partners in the field of nuclear security.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants,

It goes without saying that there is no nuclear safety without security and vice versa. Both nuclear safety and security have a common aim – protect humans and the environment from negative impact. Therefore, we should promote the synergy between nuclear safety and security from the outset of nuclear installations for the whole nuclear power cycle.

Recently, all EU member states carried out a comprehensive and unprecedented nuclear safety assessment (stress tests), as well as in parallel consideration of nuclear security related aspects was ongoing in specially formed Working Group of EU Council.

As of today Lithuania is assuming the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. During our presidency we will give special attention to energy security and safe nuclear energy development. Aiming to contribute to Asia-Europe cooperation by continuing the discussions on nuclear safety within Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) the second ASEM seminar on nuclear safety "International Instruments for Ensuring Nuclear Safety" will take place in Vilnius on 4-5 November 2013.

Nuclear safety and security will remain Lithuania's priority, we are committed to advance our cooperation with interested countries, and strengthen nuclear safety and security culture nationally.

Thank you for your attention.

