



## **European Union**

### **International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts**

**Vienna, 1 July 2013**

*Statement on behalf of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton*

*delivered by the Minister of Energy of Lithuania*

On behalf of EU High Representative Ashton, I have the honour to share with you some thoughts about the European Union's perspective on the importance of nuclear security.

At the outset, let me first commend IAEA DG Amano for convening this conference which should not only help us to further strengthen the global nuclear security culture, but also contribute to reinforcing the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. Strengthening nuclear security remains an important element in facilitating international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The EU, with its large multinational nuclear industry, has a particular interest in ensuring that the peaceful use of nuclear energy is in accordance with the highest possible standards of nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation, within the EU and worldwide. Nuclear security is a longstanding EU priority.

The international non-proliferation regime, based on the NPT obligations and the IAEA verification and safeguards system, is widely supported and has achieved much. But it has not prevented proliferation entirely. Today, more than ever, new

challenges demand that we have to continue to strengthen the NPT regime, since it is confronted with a series of challenges, not only from states, but also from non-state actors. Nuclear terrorism, as the risk of non-state actors getting access to nuclear materials or radioactive sources, represents a most serious threat to international security. Therefore, national and international nuclear security measures must be in place in order to secure nuclear material and prevent illicit nuclear trafficking and nuclear terrorism. For these reasons, we need to establish a global nuclear security framework as quickly as possible.

It should be recalled that three decades ago, the only international legal instrument addressing this concern was the 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). Against this backdrop, new legal documents were adopted over the past years like the Amendment to CPPNM, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and the measures under UNSCR 1540. In order to achieve an effective nuclear security framework, we should aim at nothing less than the global adherence to these international legal instruments. In this regard, the EU calls on states that have not yet done so, to become party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 amendment as soon as possible.

With regard to the risk created by nuclear materials which could fall into the hands of non-state actors, the EU is a leading player in efforts aimed at strengthening nuclear security world-wide, including through its participation in the Nuclear Security Summit process and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. We are a key donor to the IAEA nuclear security fund, with more than 30 million EUR committed so far through five successive Council Decisions used to counter the risk of nuclear terrorism. Around 100 countries in four continents were supported through the IAEA. It is in this context that we are proud and happy to act as 'co-operating organisation' for this International Conference on Nuclear Security. EU member states are in the process of agreeing to further sustain this work with a significant amount to be provided through a follow-up Council Decision. The main objective of the EU-IAEA partnership is: to strengthen the legislative and regulatory infrastructure; to put in place proper nuclear security measures for nuclear and

radioactive material; and to strengthen the capabilities for dealing with nuclear and radioactive material. In addition, there are dedicated EU support programmes for third countries to enhance their nuclear security standards. This is also done through the establishment of regional EU CBRN Centers of Excellence to provide for training and best practice in the area of CBRN risk mitigation and response. The EU remains committed to achieving the highest level of nuclear security. To achieve this goal the EU is already discussing new projects to further strengthen our longstanding and fruitful cooperation with the IAEA in the area of nuclear security and to enable the Agency to play a key role by supporting the efforts of countries to fulfil their nuclear security responsibilities, as also recognised in the framework of the Nuclear Security Summit process.

Moreover, the EU continues its support to the 1540 United Nations Security Council resolution. A new Council Decision in support of 1540 will be adopted very soon with a financial volume of close to 1 million EUR.

Within its member states, the EU has continued the implementation of its CBRN Action Plan adopted in 2009. Its overall goal is to reduce the threat of, and damage from, CBRN incidents of accidental, natural and intentional origin, including terrorist acts. The IAEA, Interpol, and Europol are closely associated with the process.

You will hear more details about EU nuclear security activities at the session dedicated to international and regional organisations.

The nuclear security summits in 2010 in Washington and in 2012 in Seoul laid an important groundwork aimed at strengthening nuclear security, reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism and securing all vulnerable nuclear material in the coming years. The EU, together with other world leaders, expressed its commitment towards these goals. But achieving these goals requires concrete collective efforts and cooperation from all states. In this context, the EU fully recognizes the leading role of the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security framework and highly values its work done so far. The IAEA, with its broad membership, well-established mechanisms and tools, has a recognized competence and mandate in all areas of nuclear security. We call on

states to use the existing IAEA programmes, tools and support to further enhance their national nuclear security regime.

The purpose of this conference is not only to review what has been done so far, but also to consider medium and long-term objectives and priorities for international nuclear security efforts and how current approaches may evolve to address these and meet future challenges.

The EU welcomes the outcome document of the ministerial session, which represents a good collection of forward looking ideas in guiding us in our ambition to achieve an effective global nuclear security framework.