



European Union

**IAEA Board of Governors
7- 10 March 2011, Vienna
Statement of Hungary on behalf of the European Union**

Item 4: „Strengthening the Agency’s activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications: Nuclear Technology Review 2011”.

Mr Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro¹, the Countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia associate themselves with this statement.
2. The EU would like to commend the Director General and the Secretariat for preparing the draft report on Nuclear Technology Review 2011, as contained in the document GOV/2011/3, which outlines the global status and trends in fields of nuclear science and technology. The EU also thanks Deputy Director General Bychkov for the technical briefing organized on 3 March. The EU welcomes the activities of the Agency to increase the contribution of nuclear technology to peace, health and economic development. The EU greatly values the contribution that the technical cooperation programme makes in all of these areas.
3. Nuclear technology can help in the fields of agriculture, medicine and other beneficial activities in addressing global challenges and promoting the Millennium Development Goals.
4. The EU commends the Agency for its activities aimed at strengthening efficiency in Agriculture as well as the use of isotope hydrology and water resources management. We also appreciate the Agency’s long standing cooperation with the FAO and the activities that have been carried out by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division in the field of global food security.
5. Application of rapid and accurate nuclear and nuclear related techniques is of paramount importance in the field of medicine, inter alia for the early diagnosis and efficient treatment of cancer. The EU welcomes the technological advances that

¹ Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process. Iceland remains an EFTA country and member of the European Economic Area.

continued through 2010 in radiotherapy and radiation oncology, and commends DG Amano for the priority he attaches to the PACT programme, which, together with the associated technical cooperation projects, received large contributions from EU Member States.

Mr Chairman,

6. The EU is pleased that the shortages faced from the end of 2007 until late 2010 in the supplies of molybdenum-99 have been eased and have led to increased interest in exploring and developing alternative technologies.
7. With regard to the reported decrease in the number of research reactors by approximately 40 % by 2020 and its potential impact for example on medical research and applications, the EU agrees that international cooperation and networking among their operators should be strengthened in order to ensure a broad access to reactor services as well as their efficient use. The EU attaches importance to ongoing efforts to prevent disruptions in the safe production and transport of radioisotopes to ensure adequate long-term supply, as radiation sources are essential for certain working methods in medicine, industrial applications and agriculture.
8. As far as nuclear and other radioactive materials are concerned, the EU has always attached great importance to their enhanced safety and security and supports 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), 72 research reactors operating with HEU were shut down or converted to LEU fuel by the end of 2010. The EU would like to encourage the continuation of this process.
9. In November 2010, the European Commission issued a proposal for a Council Directive on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. This featured a request to EU-Member States to present national programmes, indicating when, where and how they will build and manage final repositories aimed at achieving the highest safety standards.
10. The EU recognises that it is the sovereign right of any country to decide its own energy mix. Concerns over energy security and price volatility of fossil fuels, as well as the fight against climate change have encouraged many Member States to re-examine their long term energy policies and to broaden their energy mix.
11. At the end of 2010, 441 nuclear power reactors were in operation in the world, the majority of them in EU countries. The EU notes that fifteen constructions of nuclear power reactors started in 2010 (mostly in Asia), the largest number since 1985, which raises the number of nuclear power plants being currently built to 66. Projections of future nuclear power growth calculated by the IAEA and consolidated by the OECD/IEA still indicated high expectations for nuclear power expansion, mainly due to increasing energy demand in Asia.

Mr Chairman,

12. The EU welcomes the approval by the Board of Governors, in December 2010, to establish an IAEA low enriched uranium bank, which will be owned and managed by the IAEA, as a fuel supply of last resort in case of non-commercial disruptions and under strict criteria. This reserve adds to other initiatives of nuclear fuel supply assurance and brings benefits to energy security and to non-proliferation, without distorting the existing well functioning market.
13. The EU also notes the substantial increase in requests made by Member States for the assistance of the Agency in national energy studies, examining nuclear power as an option for their energy mix. In this regard, the EU welcomes the newly established service *Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review* (INIR) which we believe can support interested Member States in assessing all relevant aspects of a national infrastructure necessary for a nuclear power programme, including legal, financial, social, engineering, safety, security and safeguards. The EU notes the most recent INIR missions conducted by the Agency in Thailand and the United Arab Emirates.
14. 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 to meet these objectives and considers that the IAEA, as the pre-eminent internationally-mandated body in this field, remains best placed to promote and facilitate the responsible use of nuclear energy, through the safety standards and safeguards systems it delivers.

Mr Chairman,

15. It is a pleasure for me to inform that the sixth meeting of the EU Nuclear Energy Forum will take place in Prague from 19-20 May 2011. ENEF as a forum pursues that a broad discussion takes place among all relevant stakeholders on the opportunities and risks on nuclear energy. The EU also notes that the 2011 International Congress on Advances in Nuclear Power Plants (ICAPP 2011), which we understand DDG Bychkov will attend, will take place in Nice from May 2nd to 5th.
16. With regard to the longer term perspectives for nuclear energy, I would like to refer to the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan, focussing on low carbon enabling technologies on wind, solar, bio fuels, smart grids, carbon capture and storage and nuclear fission – the European Sustainable Nuclear Industrial Initiative (ESNII). This initiative concentrates on the design and construction of demonstrators and prototypes of the next generation of nuclear systems. It also aims to improve the lifecycle of current nuclear plants and to provide long-term radioactive waste management solutions. The MYRRHA facility in Belgium and the ASTRID prototype in France have been incorporated into this initiative within the EURATOM framework.
17. Finally nuclear fusion also is considered to be a promising future source of 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

which officially moved into its construction phase in July 2010. The EU is also supporting research and development in nuclear technologies through the EURATOM 7th Framework Programme.

With these comments, Mr Chairman, the EU takes note of the document GOV/2011/3.