

Statement by H. E. Mr. Pál KOVÁCS
Governor from Hungary to the IAEA,
Secretary of State, Ministry of National Development, Hungary

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Item 3, The Annual Report for 2012

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

One of our priorities during the past years was the implementation of the **Nuclear Security** Plan 2010-2013, in particular for the enhancement of the nuclear security services. Last week we had the opportunity to welcome DDG Denis Flory in our country who visited us to honor the start of the **second IPPAS** mission in Hungary. He highlighted that Hungary is the first of the countries initiating a second IPPAS mission, showcasing an exemplary practice. I wish to encourage all Member States to follow us in requesting IAEA IPPAS missions to enhance global efforts and achieve the highest possible global standard of nuclear safety and security. I hope to see many of you at the International Conference on Nuclear Security in July, which will be chaired by Dr. Martonyi the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

In Hungary we put a major emphasis on enhancing the **sustainability** of nuclear energy. This, I believe, we can only achieve by establishing responsible **radioactive waste and fuel cycle** management practices. The national low and intermediate level waste repository was inaugurated in December 2012 and currently we are adopting the national legal system to the international standards.

Mr. Chairman,

It is my personal conviction that the importance of nuclear energy will rise during the coming decades. However we must take further actions to meet the rising requirements. The St. Petersburg conference will be a perfect forum to echo this message.

Whilst low carbon policy discussions are suggesting the possibility of wider acceptance of nuclear power, we are facing headwinds in terms of economic viability in Europe. In on hand, what we face nowadays in Europe are

- the lack of peak load electricity generating capacities,
- the lack in some countries of base load capacities,
- ageing power plant infrastructure,
- low CO₂ prices,
- negative electricity prices on the market,

-that are challenges to new nuclear projects.

On the other hand, it is getting more and more clear, that there is no silver bullet. Energy experts share the opinion that a **Parallel** use of renewable energy sources and peaceful use of nuclear power can only deliver the solution to meet the challenge of climate change. Nuclear power not only contributes to improving security of supply but also to reducing CO₂ emissions. Competitiveness and government commitment would be key to the success of nuclear projects in the future.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

The average age of personnel grows together with the age of the power stations: the nuclear industry today faces the challenge of replacing significant work force

within a ten-year-period. Additionally, in newcomer countries it is required to **educate and train** thousands of people, who will be the next generation ensuring the safe operation of the nuclear facilities.

It is important to realize, that safety culture begins with **education** and matures during the decades of employing nuclear energy. Developing and improving the nuclear training and education system bears top priority for Hungary. We are currently developing our higher education system offering undergraduate to post-graduate level programs to serve the increasing domestic and international demand.

The Technical University of Budapest offers higher education programs with technical trainings held at the **Maintenance Training Centre** of Paks NPP, supported by 30 years of experience. This highly sophisticated training facility was established with the assistance of the IAEA, equipped with real reactor vessel and machinery is being used to train national and international experts without the risk of radiation.

Taking into account our capabilities Hungary welcomes and fully supports the decision of the Convention on Nuclear Safety about the upgrade of **regional emergency response centres**. We support research and development of such centres, and I would like to suggest that the training facility at Paks could be a pilot for testing the concept. After long preparatory work for the upgrade of the Maintenance Training Centre in April we were honored by the visit of Ms. Elena Buglova, head of IAEA Incident and Emergency Centre. Together we have concluded that the facility could well serve the international community as a part of the RANET system.

I think this form of international cooperation on nuclear safety culture is one of the main objectives of the Agency!

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

During this past year many of you, Mr. Amano, DDGs, Ambassadors and Delegates to the IAEA honored Hungary and the Paks NPP with their presence. This, I consider is the highest recognition of our work. We opened the doors to share experience and knowledge for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We believe we offered valuable practices to newcomer countries who came to us for assistance. Hungary is a non-vendor country with an independent nuclear industry, **committed** personnel, and extensive knowledge base to be **shared**. We adopted the IAEA practice of **openness and transparency** and received positive feedback. I would like to invite all of the Member States to join us in our endeavors.

I am hopeful that our cooperation will continue **in the coming years** as well.

With these Hungary approves the submission of the 2012 Annual Report (GOV/2013/18) of the IAEA to the General Conference.

I thank you for your kind attention.