



European Union

**IAEA Board of Governors
7- 11 March 2011, Vienna
Statement of Hungary on behalf the European Union
Item 3: Nuclear Safety Review for the year 2010
GOV/2011/4;**

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 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 “ Nuclear Safety Review for the Year 2010”, as contained in document GOV/2011/4 and its supporting notes, documents 2011/Note2 and 2011/Note3. We thank Mr Denis Flory, DDG Nuclear Safety and Security, for his briefing delivered to Member States on the Nuclear Safety Review for the Year 2010.
3. As highlighted by the European Council on 4 February 2011: "*The EU should take initiatives in line with the Treaties in the relevant international fora and develop mutually beneficial energy partnerships with key players and around strategic corridors, covering a wide range of issues, including regulatory approaches, on all subjects of common interest, such as energy security, safe and sustainable low carbon technologies, energy efficiency, investment environment maintaining and promoting the highest standards for nuclear safety.*" The EU would like to express its appreciation for the Agency's dedication and commitment to strengthening nuclear and radiation safety worldwide, which constitutes an integral part of any nuclear power programme. We consider it vital that the development and use of nuclear energy takes place in the most rigorous safety, security and non-proliferation conditions.
4. The report, which is in front of us, refers to a large number of events and activities organized or co-organized by the IAEA in 2010. These were primarily aimed at disseminating and sharing information and good practices, at developing guidance and at providing assistance to Member States through a variety of safety services. The EU or its Member States, notably through the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC), have co-sponsored, hosted or actively participated in a very significant number of such events and safety

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.

services. They all have contributed to enhancing nuclear and radiation safety worldwide.

5. We would like to commend the Agency for these achievements, and to highlight the importance that the EU attaches to nuclear and radiation safety, and its cooperation with other Member States in this field through the IAEA.
6. The report reflects that the international community maintained a high level of safety performance in 2010. The safety review cautions countries, however, not to become complacent. As stated in the report, there are currently 441 nuclear power reactors in operation in the world, a major part of which is in EU countries. The EU is pleased to note that statistics show that important plant equipment is well maintained and reliably operated during emergency shutdowns.
7. The safety review addresses the safety challenges associated with embarking on nuclear power programmes. As the trend of countries expressing interest in developing nuclear power continues, so do the challenges to develop adequate safety and security infrastructures and knowledge from the very beginning. In connection with the aforementioned European Council Conclusions, the EU notes with interest the statement on safety objectives for new nuclear power plants by the Western European Nuclear Regulators' Association (WENRA), which aims to develop a more effective implementation of the defence in depth concept in the design of new plants. By such a statement, European Regulators are expressing their strong will to apply ambitious safety objectives for the NPPs to be built in the coming years in Europe. Such a model should be used and promoted for new reactors across the globe.
8. The EU is pleased to learn the good progress achieved by the IAEA to strengthen Capacity Building and knowledge networking activities from different sources and domains across the global nuclear safety and security framework, with further development of the newly established European Technical Safety Organisation Network (ETSON). We also note the Agency's efforts to tailor a safety package to the needs of those Member States, which provides, inter alia, a Basic Professional Training Course on Nuclear Safety.

Mr Chairman,

9. Embarking on a nuclear power programme and establishing a national safety infrastructure is a complex process which involves the development of a legal and regulatory framework, as well as the necessary training and expertise for all nuclear stakeholders. The EU believes that the establishment of strong safety training programmes is therefore needed to ensure that the necessary experience levels in nuclear safety are commensurate with the pace of development and safe expansion of nuclear programmes. We note that the Agency's Nuclear Safety and Security Working Group on Coordination of Education and Training (E&T) continues to share methods and good practices for developing a curriculum, standardizing syllabi and training material, and develop a knowledge base repository. The EU is pleased to announce the launch of the European Nuclear Safety Training and Tutoring Institute (ENSTTI) in 2010, which will facilitate compliance with the provisions of the EU

council directive of 25 June 2009 and features a complete training and tutoring programme for 2011. Last year 25% of ENSTTI trainees were sponsored by the IAEA. The EU will continue to work very closely with the IAEA to further strengthen cooperation with IAEA Member States, in addressing training needs and by this filling up potential gaps in national safety infrastructures.

10. Many nuclear power plants are facing long term operation and aging issues as they approach the end of their design life. The EU would like to highlight the need for mechanisms at operator, national and international levels, for early planning, adequate funding and long term strategies with regard to decommissioning activities. As of the end of 2010, 152 nuclear power plants had been in operation for more than 30 years, and 358 for more than 20 years. The Report points out that the number of NPPs that are eligible for operating life extension is growing. We would like to support the Report's conclusion that a full and comprehensive plant-specific safety assessment, systematically conducted on a periodic basis, is a key element for ensuring safety during the Long Term Operation process.
11. Past experience also shows us that there cannot be shortcuts in the development of the regulatory infrastructure and that provisions need also to be made, including financial, for decommissioning and waste treatment facilities. In that context, the EU would like to mention that the European Commission presented a proposal for a Council Directive on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste in November 2010, which would require EU Member States to set up a national framework and programme for the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste up to disposal. We also recognise the value of the international decommissioning network (IDN) as an important instrument to assist Member States in the sharing of practical decommissioning knowledge through workshops and training courses.
12. The European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) continues to make a substantial contribution to the achievement of the Community objectives in the fields of nuclear safety and the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel and decommissioning. The EU is pleased to announce the forthcoming European Conference on nuclear safety to be held in Brussels on 28th-29th June 2011 and looks forward to broad participation from IAEA Member States. We are pleased to note that as of November 2010, 100 States have explicitly stated their commitment to use the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. We support encouragement for wider implementation of the Code by Member States, and stronger international cooperation in the development and harmonization of their policies, laws and regulations.
13. Exchange of knowledge and experience is an essential aspect of the global nuclear safety and security regime. The EU therefore welcomes the Agency efforts in strengthening regional and thematic safety networks, some of them involving EU Member States, through its Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network initiative. The EU is pleased to note that important steps have been taken by ENSREG in substantially contributing to the EU Safety Directive and by WENRA in defining safety reference levels, for safety harmonisation on the basis of the Agency's safety standards. We recall the creation of the European

Nuclear Installations Safety Standards (ENISS) initiative by the European Atomic Forum (FORATOM), which brings industry stakeholders together to discuss standards and their harmonization. Safety standards and regulations are basic elements for safety in many human activities. Thanks to international cooperation through the IAEA there are, easily available to everyone, a comprehensive set of safety standards which are a global reference for protecting people and the environment from the risks arising from any nuclear related facility or activity. The EU supports the work of the Agency to continue to strengthen synergies and, where justified, integration of its global nuclear safety and security framework through, inter alia, the joint task force of the Advisory Group on Nuclear Security (Ad Sec) and the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS).

Mr Chairman,

14. The EU also looks forward to the fifth Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) in April this year. The meeting has become a cornerstone in the international efforts to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety, to establish and maintain effective defences against radiological hazards in nuclear installations in order to protect people and the environment, and to prevent nuclear accidents and limit their consequences. The EU further calls on the 12 signatory states that are not yet parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to ratify this Treaty, since the safety of nuclear installations is the primarily responsibility of the Member State on whose territory the installation has been or will be set up. This would constitute an important step for Member States preparing to embark on a nuclear programme, considering inter alia the obligation for States Parties to set up an independent regulatory body to ensure that the regulations are correctly implemented. The EU also encourages other Member States, in particular those having plans to start a nuclear power programme, to become a Contracting Party to the CNS before they start to build their nuclear facilities. This is even more important for States that are about to commission a NPP.

Currently all Member States with nuclear power programmes are party to the Convention. In this respect the EU is particularly concerned about the ongoing commissioning of the Bushehr nuclear power plant without the prior accession of Iran to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. The EU reiterates its call on Iran to become a full member of the international nuclear safety community by implementing the peer review mechanism and by acceding to the Convention.

15. Responsibility for nuclear safety regulation should be borne by all Member States, and each country should systematically align its safety and security implementation to international best practice. The EU recognises that the promotion and maintenance of nuclear safety standards and security guidelines in all technical cooperation projects is of the utmost importance.
16. The EU places a considerable importance on the safe transport of radioactive material. The EU also looks forward to the International Conference on the Safety and Security of Transport of Radioactive Material: The Next Fifty Years of Transport – Creating a Safe, Secure and Sustainable Framework, to be held

in Vienna in October 2011. We welcome the keynote speech delivered by Denis Flory, DDG Nuclear Safety and Security, at the International Symposium on the Packaging and Transport of Radioactive Materials (PATRAM) held in October 2010 in London. The conference provided a useful platform for over 780 participants from 36 countries to discuss a variety of transport issues.

The importance of having effective international nuclear liability instruments, reflecting the principles in conventions such as the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy is addressed in the report and reinforced by the renewed interest in nuclear energy capacity. We welcome the Secretariat's efforts to assist states in questions of nuclear liability.

17. The 2010 report devotes significant attention to the issues associated with the medical uses of ionizing radiation, already emphasized in the last annual reports. The previously reported increase in the number of CT examinations and the introduction of new imaging techniques is declared to be not only leading to bigger number of patients receiving higher radiation doses but to be also potentially increasing the exposure of medical staff. In August 2010, the European Commission issued a Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on medical applications of ionizing radiation and security of supply of radioisotopes for nuclear medicine, within which the associated issues are discussed and a way-forward to addressing them is proposed. The EU and its institutions will therefore continue, and wherever necessary intensify, their successful co-operation with other countries and international organizations, including with the IAEA and within the International Action Plan for the Radiological Protection of Patients.

Mr Chairman,

18. The EU recognises the value of the international IAEA peer review services, such as the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) and the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) as an important mechanism for helping Member States to maintain and enhance high levels of nuclear safety in all processes. Periodic peer reviews are an important provision of the new EU Safety Directive and the proposed EU Waste Directive. We support the Agency's promotion of the benefits of such services, and the European Commission is preparing to make a financial contribution to the IAEA for the IRRS missions linked to the EU Safety Directive.
19. Safety standards and practices are best supported and enhanced by international peer review and the sharing of knowledge and experience, to which these conventions make a valuable contribution. International cooperation is crucial as well for promoting the global nuclear safety regime. In this context, the Convention on Nuclear Safety referred earlier, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Conventions on Notification and Assistance, and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management are instruments of utmost importance. The EU is strongly committed to these Conventions. In accordance with their provisions, the EU has been promoting

the establishment and maintenance of a high level of nuclear safety in its Member States.

20. The EU welcomes the efforts spent by IAEA with regard to the recovery of orphan radioactive sources and to prevent their occurrence through the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive sources. The EU also encourages IAEA to draft a proposal for an international agreement concerning the transboundary movement of scrap metal containing radioactive material.
21. The EU also welcomes the increased consideration of exposure situations involving natural radiation sources, in particular the safety of industries processing naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM), both for the application of the basic safety standards as with regard to the restoration of environmental legacies.
22. In the field of radiological emergency preparedness, the EU welcomes the recent IAEA initiative to create a global environmental radiation data exchange system. The EU has already agreed to make the technology developed in Europe for this type of a system available for IAEA use free of charge. The EU also wishes to support the on-going efforts to improve implementation of the Assistance Convention by facilitating wider European participation in the RANET system. The EU notes the important role played by the IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre in this area.
23. Last but not least, the report refers also to an extensive list of activities in other fields, such as the long term safety of nuclear materials, which are relevant elements of a holistic nuclear safety approach.

With these comments, Mr Chairman, the EU takes note of the document GOV/2011/4.