



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°885**

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**EU Statement on Nuclear Security in the OSCE Area**

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The EU and its Member States warmly welcome the speakers to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank them for their interesting presentations. We commend the Slovenian FSC Chair for bringing the topic of Nuclear Security in the OSCE Area to the attention of this Forum. We regard it as a timely review of the OSCE principles governing non-proliferation that were updated five years ago in the FSC Decision No. 7/13 and which stipulate that the OSCE participating States will “maintain effective security of all nuclear materials and nuclear facilities under their control”, with a view to “strengthening security and reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism”.

The EU and its Member States are united in their support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and an important element in the further development of applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The NPT has retained its value over the past 50 year, despite ever-changing circumstances. Its principles and goals continue to make a fundamental contribution to global security. The EU and its Member States are committed to upholding the NPT as a key multilateral instrument for reinforcing international peace, security and stability, promoting its universality and enhancing its implementation. To this end the EU and its MS are active and constructive contributors to the current treaty review cycle and preparation of the 2020 NPT Review Conference, including through the effective Chairmanships of the Netherlands and Poland during the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee.

The EU and its Member States recognize that nuclear security is essential element of global security. We remain greatly concerned by the threat of terrorism and the risk that terrorists may acquire, traffic or use nuclear or other radioactive materials. While

recognizing that nuclear security remains the responsibility of each State, international cooperation contributes significantly to strengthening nuclear security.

The EU recognises the right of NPT States Parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in accordance with Article IV of the Treaty. It is in our common interest to ensure that the development and use of nuclear energy takes place in a responsible manner under the most rigorous safety, security, safeguards and non-proliferation conditions. The EU and its Member States continue to promote highly effective standards of nuclear safety and nuclear security in the EU and its neighbourhood, as well as worldwide.

The IAEA has a central role in coordination the global efforts and strengthening the international nuclear security architecture for the peaceful uses of nuclear and other radioactive material as widely recognized by international initiatives – such as the Nuclear Security Summit process - which have contributed to strengthening nuclear security. In this regard, we fully support the implementation of the IAEA 2018-2021 Nuclear Security Plan (IAEA GC(61)/24) and consider the entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, to which all EU MS, as well as the Euratom Community, are Parties, as a milestone in strengthening global nuclear security.

Together with the bilateral contributions from its MS, the EU is among the largest donors to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. The total EU financial contribution to the Fund, based on seven successive Council Joint Actions/Decisions has reached nearly EUR 50 million for the period of 2009-2019.

Significant progress has been made in the last decade in the EU through the implementation of an EU internal plan to enhance chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security. The EU CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative provides a platform for voluntary regional cooperation with more than 60 partner countries on all CBRN-related hazard issues with allocated budget of EUR 156 million for the period 2014-2020.

In the framework of its strategy against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the EU is actively supporting UN Security Council Resolutions 1540, 1887 and 2325. The EU and its MS actively contribute to international initiatives, such as the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, which contribute to strengthening nuclear security.

Mr. Chairman, we commend and support OSCE's work related to non-proliferation. This is demonstrated also through our financial support to OSCE projects in the context of UNSCR 1540 implementation.

Finally, we thank the FSC Chairmanship for providing us with the opportunity to exchange views on this important topic.

The Candidate Countries, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.