

Statement by Belgium on behalf of the European Union - 65th UNGA

Agenda item 87: 'Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency'

8 November 2010

Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

The European Union Member States are co-sponsoring the draft resolution on the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We thank the Chairman of the IAEA Board of Governors for its efforts and sincerely hope that the resolution will be adopted by consensus. The IAEA was created more than five decades ago to promote Atoms for Peace with the mandate to increase the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity, to ensure that nuclear activities are not diverted to military purposes, to spread throughout the world a safety culture and rigorous safety standards and more recently to avert the risk of nuclear terrorism.

Today, the Agency is faced with a number of compelling challenges in particular nuclear proliferation and compliance issues. In that context, the European Union would like to thank the IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano and the Secretariat of the IAEA for their professional and impartial work and assures them of its unfailing support. The year 2010 marks an important milestone for the nuclear non-proliferation regime and has given it a new impetus. Committed to effective multilateral action against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the European Union warmly welcomes the consensus reached at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in May this year.

The action plan agreed on all three pillars of the NPT (non-proliferation, disarmament, peaceful uses), as well as agreement on a process on the implementation of the 1995 NPT Resolution on the Middle East, including a conference, to be convened in 2012, demonstrates our common resolve not only to uphold but also to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The 2010 NPT Review Conference reaffirmed the role of the IAEA

in verifying and assuring compliance by states with their safeguards obligations with a view to preventing the diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons. We need now to begin implementation of the NPT Action Plan, building on the results of the Review Conference and continuing the spirit of consensus and cooperation which characterised the negotiations. With regard to the Agency mandate we will be particularly keen to ensure the IAEA operates in an effective and efficient manner and has adequate resources. The European Union is fully committed to the implementation of the Action Plan and will fully support the Agency's efforts to that aim. The European Union invites all Member States to engage actively with the Agency in this regard.

Mr President,

The Agency's system of safeguards is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. The European Union reiterates its view that the measures contained in the Additional Protocol form an integral part of this system and that Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols constitute the current IAEA verification standard. The European Union calls for universalisation of these two essential instruments of the IAEA safeguards system without delay, as a means to strengthen the non-proliferation regime, enhance security worldwide and increase the confidence needed for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to reach its full potential.

The European Union reaffirms its understanding of the role of the United Nations Security Council as the final arbiter of international peace and security in order to take appropriate action in the event of non-compliance with NPT obligations including safeguards agreements. The European Union attaches the utmost importance to a high level of nuclear safety worldwide. International cooperation is crucial for promoting the global nuclear safety framework. Nuclear Security is an essential programme of the Agency and the European Union commends the IAEA for its activities aimed at preventing and combating nuclear terrorism. The NPT Review Conference and the Nuclear Security Summit emphasised the important role of the IAEA in fostering international cooperation in nuclear security in establishing a comprehensive set of nuclear security guidelines and assisting Member States, upon their request, to enhance nuclear security.

The European Union is of the firm view that each country has the right to define its own energy strategy. For those countries which consider or plan to include nuclear power in their energy strategies, the Agency has a key role to play in assisting them to ensure that the development and operation of nuclear power takes place under the most stringent legal, operational safety, security and non-proliferation conditions. The European Union welcomes

the activities of the Agency to increase the contribution of nuclear technology to peace, health and economic development. The European Union has always been a strong supporter of the Technical Cooperation Programme, to which it is one of the main contributors. We recognise that addressing the global challenges of hunger, disease, poverty and water resource management and creating a cleaner and safer environment is of particular significance to developing countries, and the European Union values the efforts of the Agency in those areas.

The European Union reiterates its full support for the IAEA and is pleased to co-sponsor the draft Resolution on the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency before you.

Thank you, Mr. President.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.