



European Union

Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors Vienna, 18-20 November 2020

Agenda item 4(b): Implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in the Syrian Arab Republic

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [Turkey[§], the Republic of North Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Iceland[†], Serbia^{*}, Albania^{*}, Bosnia and Herzegovina^{*}, Liechtenstein[†], Norway[†], Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and San Marino.]
2. The EU would like to reiterate its serious concern over the absence of cooperation by the Syrian Arab Republic and the lack of any progress on the long outstanding questions regarding the Dair Alzour site and three other locations, as reported in the Director General's introductory statement.
3. The EU deeply regrets that nine years after the IAEA Board of Governors found Syria to be in non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement and despite repeated calls by the Director General, the Syrian Arab Republic has yet to provide the necessary cooperation to resolve all outstanding safeguards questions. The EU, once again, strongly urges the Syrian Arab Republic to fully comply with the Board of Governors resolution of June 2011.

Madam Chair,

4. As long as the Syrian Arab Republic does not resolve the outstanding issues with the Agency, it continues to be non-compliant with its Safeguards Agreement. The Syrian regime should be held accountable for its lack of action and urgently remedy this non-compliance. The EU calls on the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate fully with the Agency to clarify matters with regard to Dair Alzour and the other relevant sites, and to conclude and bring into force an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.
5. Finally, Madam Chair, the EU wishes to reaffirm its request that the Director General keep the Board of Governors informed about this issue and maintain this item on the agenda of its meetings until the Syrian Arab Republic fully cooperates with the Agency to resolve the international community's concerns and remedies its non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement. The EU believes that cases of serious non-compliance by a State with its Safeguards obligations cannot be remedied by a mere lapse of time and that the persistence of non-compliance makes it even more important to maintain the issue on the agenda of the Board. The contrary would set a dangerous precedent that the Board needs to avoid. Member States addressing instances of non-compliance is essential to maintain the credibility of the IAEA safeguards system.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

[§] Candidate Country

^{*} Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

[†] Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.