



# European Union

## EU Statement on

### Agenda item 7(a): The conclusion of safeguards agreements and of additional protocols

#### IAEA Board of Governors

Vienna, 1-5 March 2021

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [Turkey<sup>§</sup>, the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>\*</sup>, Montenegro<sup>\*</sup>, Iceland<sup>†</sup>, Serbia<sup>\*</sup>, Albania<sup>\*</sup>, Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>\*</sup>, Liechtenstein<sup>†</sup>, Norway<sup>†</sup>, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and San Marino].
2. Implementation of effective IAEA safeguards and measures of accounting for and control of nuclear material at national and regional levels are essential to ensure the peaceful use of nuclear material and activities but also to protect citizens, neighbouring countries and the wider world from the effects of accidents, malicious acts, illicit trafficking and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
3. Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, concluded by non-nuclear-weapon States party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), enables the IAEA to verify that the Parties are honouring their international legal obligations to use all nuclear material and technology only for peaceful purposes. The EU considers that Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with the Additional Protocol constitute in this regard the current verification standard under Article III of the NPT. We therefore continue to call for their universalisation without delay.
4. The EU recalls the Board's 2005 Decision that Small Quantity Protocols (SQPs) should be subject to modifications in the standard text and changes in the SQP criteria in order to strengthen the Agency's safeguards system. The EU also recalls UNSC Resolution 1887, which "calls upon all non-nuclear-weapon States party to the NPT that have yet to bring into force a comprehensive safeguards agreement or a modified small quantities protocol to do so immediately".
5. Since our last meeting in November, the EU has stepped up its efforts to promote the strengthening of IAEA safeguards including entering into a dialogue on this issue with States which have not yet modified their original Small Quantities Protocols (SQP) to their Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements. In this regard, we welcome Sudan's recent amendment of its original Small Quantities Protocol and urge all other remaining States with SQPs based on the original standard text to amend or rescind their SQPs as early as possible, especially those States that have taken a decision to construct or authorise construction of a nuclear facility as defined in the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

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<sup>§</sup> Candidate Country

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

<sup>†</sup> Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

6. In the run-up to the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference, the EU and other countries will intensify their efforts to promote the universalisation of the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol with the aim to strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. Once again, we urge all States, which have not yet done so, to conclude a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA and conclude and bring into force the Additional Protocol.
7. We thank the Director General for making these issues a priority and for his efforts to strengthen the IAEA safeguards.

Thank you, Madam Chair.