EU Statement on Cluster III issues
First Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference
Vienna, 30 April-11 May 2012

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland** and Serbia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia associate themselves with this statement.

2. The EU reaffirms its support for the inalienable right of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I, II and III of the Treaty. The European Union is strongly committed to the objectives of Article IV. Through multilateral and bilateral cooperation programmes, the EU supports many peaceful and beneficial applications of nuclear technology, in particular in developing countries.

3. The EU notes that nuclear energy continues to play its role in global electricity production and that the projections of future civil nuclear programmes still indicate growth in several regions of the world, in particular in Asia.

4. Following the adoption by consensus of the Action Plan set out in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the EU recognizes the importance of addressing further international co-operation based on the safe and secure development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Conscious of its obligations under Article IV of the Treaty, the EU will work towards cooperating with all interested countries within this framework, ensuring that sensitive technologies and goods are not disseminated for purposes other than peaceful ones. We call on the international community to work to

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*Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process
**Iceland remains an EFTA country and member of the European Economic Area
promote the implementation of the 2010 conclusions and recommendations in support of a successful NPT Review Conference in 2015.

5. In line with Actions 49, and 52 to 56, we have always strongly supported the IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme. We value its role in the responsible development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology in the areas of human health, food and agriculture, water resources, environment, nuclear and radiation safety, and nuclear energy in participating Member States.

6. The European Union uses several of its financial instruments to support both the IAEA, and cooperation with third countries, in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology with a total amount of at least € 150 million per year. Part of this funding is implemented in third countries through the IAEA’s Technical Cooperation Fund to which the EU and its Member States are one of the largest contributors. On 4 May 2012, in the margins of the NPT PrepCom, the EU organised a side-event on the topic of peaceful uses, with the participation of the IAEA.

7. Through the EU Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) up to €524 million was and is being committed during the period 2007-2013. This instrument finances projects in the field of safety in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Latin America, South East Asia, Northern Africa and the Middle East.

8. Under the Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA), the EU is providing assistance, through the IAEA, in the areas of nuclear safety and security, and is supporting specific projects to address the needs of EU candidate and potential candidate countries, through contracts amounting to € 21 million in 2010.

9. In line with Action 58, the European Union remains firmly convinced of the benefits of multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. In line with the NPT conclusions on this matter, the EU welcomes the steps taken to establish an IAEA LEU Bank. The EU is committed to supporting the future low-enriched uranium bank under IAEA auspices with up to € 25 million, of which € 10 million has been paid already to the IAEA.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Nuclear applications should only be developed in the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions as contained in Actions 38 to 46. Let me recall, in that respect, that in the framework of the EURATOM Treaty, the EU has sought to implement these high standards over the past 50 years.

11. The EU recalls that the conditions laid down by the NPT for the exercise of the right to use nuclear energy are: the observance of non-proliferation commitments, the implementation of IAEA safeguards and the pursuit, in accordance with the good-faith principle, of peaceful purposes.
Mr. Chairman,

12. In our response to the Fukushima Accident and feeding into our commitments under the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, the EU undertook, as a matter of priority, a review of the safety of all EU nuclear power plants in the light of the accident, on the basis of a comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessment ("Stress Tests"). The first results of the Stress Tests have been submitted as 'interim Test Reports' at the EU level on 24 November 2011 and as 'final Country Reports' at the national level on 31 December 2011. In order to provide the necessary confidence in the results of the stress tests, a transparent peer review process took place until the end of March; the final report will be passed to the European Commission by the end of April. Participation in the peer review included experts from nuclear and non-nuclear EU Member States, Switzerland, and Ukraine, as well as observers from other countries (Croatia, Japan, US) and the IAEA Secretariat.

13. On the basis of the outcome of the peer reviews, the European Commission will prepare its Final Report in June 2012. A strategic policy priority of the EU is to review in 2012 the existing EU nuclear safety legal framework and, if necessary, amend the 2009 EU Nuclear Safety Directive, or put forward other legislative or non-legislative proposals. The final outcome of the stress test process is expected to provide an objective overview of the nuclear safety situation in the EU and will form a solid basis for any proposals – legislative or non-legislative – for improving the EU nuclear safety framework. The EU continues to encourage other countries to perform similar stress tests in cooperation with the Agency, to report thereon and to make the conclusions public.

14. With regard to Action 42, and in line with Actions 40 to 45, we are faced with a new era of threats from non-state actors, particularly terrorists, who seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction and related technology and materials, as one of the potentially most destructive risks to global security. In this light, the EU is actively supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and UNSCR 1887 as well as a number of other international initiatives.

15. The European Union stresses the need to do everything possible to prevent the risks of weapons of mass destruction falling into hands of terrorists, in particular the risk of nuclear terrorism. In this context, we stress the need for compliance with obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1887 (2009), and call for improved nuclear security for high radioactive sources. Consistent with the longstanding and significant support provided by the EU to global nuclear security efforts, we have actively contributed to the outcome of both the Washington and Seoul Nuclear Security Summits, and are looking forward to the next summit, in the Netherlands. The EU fully supports the key role of the IAEA, as reflected in the Nuclear Security Summits communiqués.

16. The EU supports many activities in the area of nuclear security in the framework of the implementation of the EU strategy against the Proliferation
of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The European Union is one of the main contributors to the Nuclear Security Fund through its own contributions and through the contributions of individual EU Member States, with a level of funding around €30 million last year.

17. Effective physical protection is of the utmost importance in preventing nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists or accidental misuse, and to protect nuclear facilities against unauthorised use and malicious acts. The EU therefore urges all States that have not yet done so, to become party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its amendment. All EU Member States and Euratom have ratified the CPPNM. Internal ratification procedures for the Amendment to the Convention should be completed by the EU Member States that have not yet done so by the end of 2012.

18. We underline the importance of continuing international cooperation in order to strengthen nuclear safety, safe waste management, radiological protection and civil nuclear liability and call upon states that have not yet done so to accede to all the relevant conventions as soon as possible and to implement fully the ensuing commitments. In addition, we call on the States parties to the convention on the physical protection of nuclear material to ratify as soon as possible the amendment to the convention, in order to expedite its entry into force.

Mr. Chairman,

19. Strengthening of the global non-proliferation regime and ensuring fair and responsible access to the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies should go hand in hand. The EU thus calls on all NPT State Parties to be united in recommending to the 2015 RevCon concrete means for ensuring a responsible approach to peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the best safety, security, and non-proliferation conditions by all countries wishing to launch or to develop their capacities in this field.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.