

**STATEMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE
GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO COMBAT NUCLEAR TERRORISM
Buenos Aires, 6-7 June 2019**

Mr Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: the Candidate Countries Turkey, North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.
2. We thank the Government of Argentina for its hospitality and appreciate its dedication to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). The European Union and its Member States remain committed to this Initiative and its mission to strengthen global capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear terrorism.
3. The EU and its Member States are actively involved in the work of the GICNT in all areas: nuclear detection, nuclear forensics and response and mitigation. Finland has chaired the Implementation and Assessment Group and the United Kingdom leads the Nuclear Detection working group, while the EU has actively contributed to the substance of all reference documents of the GICNT. In June 2018 Finland hosted the Implementation and Assessment Group meeting and the Netherlands hosted a two-day Nuclear Detection experts meeting in Bilthoven, in January 2018.
4. The EU and its Member States organise and participate in events to help foster international awareness and commitment to nuclear security such as the Blue Lion: Recovery and Consequence Management Workshop and Experts Meeting hosted by the United Kingdom in February 2018; the Fierce Falcon: Radiological Source Security and Theft Response Workshop organized by Hungary, in cooperation with the GICNT and the US Department of Energy in April 2018; and the Sentinel II workshop: Developing National Nuclear Security Exercise Programmes hosted by Lithuania, in collaboration with the United Kingdom in October 2018. Hosted at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin in September 2019, the IAEA and Germany will conduct a large technical meeting on computer security approaches and applications in nuclear security. In April 2020 France plans to organise within the framework of the GICNT a workshop on the nexus between the detection of a nuclear security accident and the traditional security.

Mr Chairman,

5. The EU stresses the need to continue strengthening nuclear security worldwide in order to prevent nuclear terrorism and the misuse of nuclear and radioactive material. To that end, we highlight the importance of becoming party to and fully implementing the relevant treaties, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

Terrorism and the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and underline the importance of the UNSC Resolutions 1540 and 2325.

6. In December 2018 the European Council decided to further support the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) as a key element of the global nuclear security and anti-terrorism architecture. With Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1939 on Union support for the universalisation and effective implementation of ICSANT the EU will provide nearly EUR five million over a period of three years to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. The EU-funded activities aim to increase the number of adherents to ICSANT, to raise awareness among national policy- and decision-makers, as well as capacity-building: to help improve national legislation and to strengthen the capacity of national stakeholders, including criminal justice officials to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases of nuclear terrorism. The implementation of the Council Decision started with a launching event in New York held in April 2019 and in Vienna held in May 2019.
7. All EU Member States, as well as the Euratom Community, are Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. We continue to promote its universalisation and effective implementation, including through our support for the IAEA nuclear security activities. The EU contributes to the implementation of the 2018-2021 IAEA Nuclear Security Plan through Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/2383 which funds the IAEA nuclear security activities towards the universalisation of international non-proliferation and nuclear security instruments; assisting States in the establishment of indigenous technical, scientific and human capacity, necessary for effective, sustainable nuclear security; strengthening capacities to prevent, detect, respond and protect people, property, environment and society from criminal or intentional unauthorised acts involving nuclear or other radioactive material out of regulatory control; strengthening the detection of and response to illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material; contributing to computer security in the nuclear field; strengthening the security of radioactive sources, to bring them to a safe and secure storage in the countries in need of support, including repatriation to the country of origin or supplier; strengthening physical protection of nuclear and other radioactive material.
8. The EU and its Member States are the second largest donors to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund with EU contributions alone amounting to more than EUR 50 million for the period of 2009-2019. Furthermore, the EU has contributed more than EUR 24 million to the establishment and the secure management of a Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank under the control of the IAEA. The financial contribution of over EUR 4 million aims to ensure that nuclear fuel is supplied in a secure and safe manner and to help the IAEA guarantee the security and safety of LEU transport from procurement to supply, and during storage at the Bank's site. Under the Instrument for Stability, the European Commission provided EUR 20 million for the purpose of acquiring the LEU.
9. The European Union is gravely concerned about the risk of state or non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction or their delivery systems. UN Security Council Resolution 1540, complemented by Resolution 2325, remains a key part of the international non-proliferation architecture in this regard. We have provided substantial political and financial support to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. We share the objectives of assisting States with identifying specific technical assistance, raise awareness of relevant programs of technical assistance, and enhance cooperation with international and regional organizations to help with national capacity building.

Mr Chairman,

10. The EU Nuclear Security Training Centre for detection and response to illicit acts with nuclear and other radioactive materials (EUSECTRA) has been fully operational since 2013 for the benefit of EU Member States and partner countries, among them several GICNT members. The Centre is operated by the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) at its sites in Karlsruhe (Germany) and Ispra (Italy), in close co-operation with other international initiatives promoted by the International Atomic Energy Agency and several GICNT partner countries. The Centre is also used for practical exercises mainly related to combatting the illicit trafficking of nuclear or other radioactive materials. EUSECTRA is active in addressing the training needs of the EU Member States and EU partners, including highly appreciated coordinated trainings for the Member States delegates in customs and law enforcement.
11. In order to strengthen international cooperation to counter nuclear smuggling, the JRC co-organised with the US Department of State the 2018 Counter Nuclear Smuggling Workshop, held at JRC Karlsruhe (15-17 May 2018) with the participation of experts from 22 countries and several international organizations. Subsequently under the auspices of the GICNT, the event 'Cunning Karl': Nuclear Detection Reachback Support Workshop was held in Karlsruhe from 12 to 14 February 2019. This built on the 'Magic Maggiore' expert support and reachback workshop organised by the JRC in collaboration with the GICNT in March 2017 at the JRC site in Ispra.
12. In the area of research and development, the JRC is playing an important role in the testing and standardisation of detection systems for nuclear security, namely through its activities in the framework of initiatives such as the Illicit Trafficking Radiation Assessment Program (ITRAP+10) and the Effective Container inspection at BORDER control points (C-BORD).
13. The European Commission and the EU Member States continue their nuclear forensics activities on the basic characterisation of intercepted nuclear material, using an advanced nuclear forensic investigation at the JRC site in Karlsruhe (Germany). Overall, nuclear materials detected and seized in more than 50 incidents have been examined thus providing support to competent authorities in EU Member States and beyond.

Mr. Chairman,

14. The EU CBRN risk mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) initiative is a worldwide capacity building programme, gathering 61 partner countries grouped around 8 regional Secretariats, located in the following regions: African Atlantic Façade; Central Asia; Eastern and Central Africa; Gulf Cooperation Council Countries; Middle East; North Africa and Sahel; South East Asia; South East and Eastern Europe.
15. The CBRN CoE is financed under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), and aims to mitigate risks related to CBRN materials, strengthen partner countries' preparedness, and nurture security culture and governance. Participating countries are supported in their efforts to establish, on a voluntary basis and following a bottom-up, regional approach, national and regional coordination and governance structures. These platforms develop policy proposals and capacities based on specific needs assessments and national action plans. They are supported through several regional cooperation projects funded under the initiative and open to other financing instruments.

Since 2010, 66 regional projects have been financed. The budget for the initiative for the 10 –year period starting in 2010 amounts to EUR 250 million.

16. The Centres of Excellence network is now well developed, and allowed the EU to undertake training table-top and field cross-border exercises on matters including civil protection, incident response, bio-security, and waste management in the framework of CoE projects, in order to enhance visibility and concretely assess their impact.
17. In October 2017, the European Commission presented – as a part of wider Counterterrorism Package – an Action Plan to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security risk. The new Action Plan, building on the achievements of the EU CBRN Action Plan 2010-2015, proposes a wide range of measures to improve preparedness, resilience and coordination and the creation of a more security-focused CBRN architecture at the EU level. The CBRN Action Plan has received scientific and technical support from a range of research projects funded by the Secure Society Programme under the 7th Framework Programme. The research covers the entire crisis management cycle from prevention to recovery. Activities to identify standardisation needs could lead to ‘European Norms’ standards. The Horizon 2020 programme will strengthen on-going work in CBRN research through focused topics.

Mr. Chairman,

18. In conclusion, let me assure you that the European Union and its Member States remain strongly committed and well prepared to contribute, in a tangible and constructive way, to the future activities of the GICNT. We will continue to work actively together with partner countries and observers of the GICNT in order to strengthen international co-operation to advance nuclear security worldwide.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.