



European Union

Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors Vienna, 9-13 March 2020

Agenda item 6(d): 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[§], 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. As repeatedly stated, the EU remains seriously concerned about the absence of cooperation and progress on the long outstanding questions regarding the Dair Alzour site and the three other locations as reported in the Acting Director General's introductory statement.
3. The EU deeply regrets that, eight years after the Board found Syria to be in non-compliance with its safeguards agreement and despite repeated calls by the Director General, Syria has yet to provide the necessary cooperation and to resolve all outstanding safeguards questions. The EU, once again, strongly urges Syria to comply fully with the Board of Governors resolution of June 2011.

Madam Chair,

4. Once again, we would like to reiterate that as long as Syria does not resolve the outstanding issues with the Agency, Syria continues to be non-compliant with its Safeguards Agreement. The Syrian authorities should be held responsible for their lack of action in urgently remedying this non-compliance. The EU calls on Syria 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 Syria fully cooperates with the Agency to resolve the international community's concerns and Syria has remedied 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 needs to be avoided. 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.