



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 18-20 November 2020
Agenda item: Any other Business (safeguards agreements)**

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. Effective IAEA safeguards are essential to ensure control of nuclear material and activities in order to protect citizens, neighbouring countries and the wider world from the effects of accidents, malicious acts, illicit trafficking and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
3. The conclusion of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, required from 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 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 the NPT. We therefore continue to call for their universalisation without delay. In this respect, the EU welcomes the fact that 136 States have the Additional Protocol in force and also notes that another 14 States have signed Additional Protocols but have yet to bring them into force
4. The EU recalls the Board's 2005 Decision that 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". In this regard, we note with concern that today there are 31 States with operative SQPs still to be amended.
5. We therefore thank the Director General for sending official letters to these 31 countries, asking them to amend the SQPs to their CSAs as soon as possible to the revised standard introduced by the IAEA Board of Governors fifteen years ago, or to rescind them altogether.
6. The EU urges these 31 States, which have not yet amended or rescinded their SQPs, to accelerate their efforts in this respect or apply the CSA in full, especially those States that have taken the decision to construct or authorize construction of a nuclear facility as defined in the CSA. The EU also urges all States that have any type of safeguards agreement with the IAEA, and that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol thereby accepting all provisions of the Model Additional Protocol, which was approved by the Board of Governors in 1997.

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.