

Information Circular

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Communication dated 16 November 2011 received from the Delegation of the European Union to the International Organizations in Vienna on international cooperation by the European Union in support of peaceful uses of nuclear energy

The Secretariat has received a note verbale dated 16 November 2011 from the Delegation of the European Union to the IAEA attaching an information paper on international cooperation by the European Union in support of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

As requested in that communication, the note verbale and its attachment are herewith circulated for the information of Member States.



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN VIENNA

INFCIRC/830
Attachment

Vienna, 16 November 2011
DEL VIE/2011/D/00147

NOTE VERBALE

The Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to attach hereto an information paper on international cooperation by the European Union in support of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The EU Delegation would be grateful if this Note Verbale and its attachment could be circulated as an INFCIRC in order to bring this information to the attention of IAEA Member States.

The Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the IAEA the assurance of its highest consideration.



The International Atomic Energy Agency

VIENNA

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION IN SUPPORT OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

INFORMATION PAPER

Introduction

The EU and its Member States are together the largest single donor of foreign assistance in the world. For twenty years the EU's external assistance has included assistance intended to ensure the safe and secure use of nuclear energy in third countries. Several hundred million Euros have been spent under these external assistance programmes for the safe and secure use of nuclear energy, including in the past through previous programmes (PHARE and TACIS). The activities financed by new instruments in the EU's current financial cycle (2007-2013) are described in more detail below.

General Policy

The European Union uses its various financial instruments to support the peaceful uses of nuclear energy around the world. It does so through its support to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and through direct bilateral cooperation with third countries. EU funds are provided along thematic lines and through financial instruments, rather than attributed to any particular international initiatives. The instruments support the objectives of the European Union's international cooperation activities in the fields of nuclear safety, security, safeguards and research whilst ensuring consistency with the objectives of the European Union's strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction of 2003.

The total amount of European Union funds allocated to these activities is of at least €150 million annually. This amount includes projects implemented by the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund. Together with contributions by its Member States, the European Union is the second biggest financial contributor to the Fund.

The main European Union financial instruments, programmes and activities currently being used to support the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are:

European Union Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation

The European Union Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation is expected to commit up to €524 million during the financial period 2007-2013. The programmes funded under this instrument provide for cooperation on nuclear regulatory matters, operational safety, design safety, radioactive waste management and decommissioning, off-site emergency preparedness and safeguards. It thus assists third countries in establishing the frameworks and methodologies for the safe operation of peaceful nuclear activities. Priority geographical areas under the revised strategy for 2010-2013 include countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, countries with established nuclear programmes in Asia and Latin America and countries launching nuclear power programmes or needing to address radioactive waste issues, in particular in North Africa and the Middle East and in South-East Asia. The instrument also provides for contributions to international funds, notably to those concerning Chernobyl.

As regards cooperation with the IAEA, a first project under the instrument was recently completed, namely the European Commission-IAEA-Ukraine Joint Project on Safety Assessment of Ukrainian Nuclear Power Plants. Two sets of projects (€6.5 million in 2009 and €4.5 in 2010) have been initiated with the IAEA. About €10 million has been earmarked for new joint projects with the IAEA during 2012-2013. Cooperation with the Agency includes projects to assist the setting up of

regulatory infrastructure in new emerging countries that have already decided or are about to decide to develop the use of a nuclear energy programme. It is being implemented partly through the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund. It extends well beyond the European Union's immediate neighbourhood to support activities such as the contribution to the Agency's broader initiatives on the remediation of uranium mines in Central Asia, the "Asian Nuclear Safety Network" and projects in Latin America.

European Union Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance

Under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, the European Union is providing assistance in the areas of nuclear safety and security and supporting specific projects to address the needs of candidate and potential candidate countries. As regards cooperation with third countries through the IAEA, the volume of contracts signed under the instrument is expected to increase to over €21 million in 2011. They are, and will continue to be used, to finance a number of joint projects, including a regional programme in the Western Balkans aimed at improving the regulatory environment. An important project funded is the "Vinča Nuclear Decommissioning Programme", which is designed to make safe, and return to the Russian Federation, the spent fuel from the Vinča research reactor in Serbia. This project is also supported by the United States of America, the Russian Federation and a number of EU Member States.

European Union Instrument for Stability

The Instrument for Stability allocates nearly €300 million to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear risk mitigation over the period 2007-2013. Whilst most of the projects were not designed to differentiate between radiological and nuclear parts on the one hand and chemical and biological on the other hand, some individual projects focus on illicit trafficking of nuclear materials or sharing information on CBRN incidents, the latter involving also the IAEA. Under the Instrument for Stability, among others, the following activities for cooperation with the IAEA have been identified:

i) support for a low-enriched uranium fuel bank under IAEA auspices. The financing could comprise up to €20 million from the Instrument for Stability and is expected to be delivered in 2011-2012. An additional contribution of up to €5 million is intended via a European Union common foreign and security policy decision;

ii) support for the construction of a new IAEA safeguards laboratory for the analysis of nuclear material (€5 million to be transferred in 2011).

iii) the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence Initiative aims at developing with third countries, at national and regional levels, the necessary institutional capacity to fight against the CBRN risk. The origin of the risk can be criminal (proliferation, theft, sabotage and illicit traffics), accidental (industrial catastrophes, in particular chemical or nuclear, waste treatment, and transport) or natural (mainly pandemics). Nearly €100 million will be allocated to the initiative in the period 2009-2013. The Centres address legal, regulatory, technical, enforcement and control issues relating to CBRN risk mitigation. In each region, a range of networks of experts will be created or reinforced for sharing best practices, reviewing laws and regulation and developing technical capacities on the above subjects. International expertise, such as IAEA, WHO etc. will be sought as necessary.

The European Union continues to be an important contributor to the G8 Global Partnership. Under the Instrument for Stability, it plans to spend around €300 million with various third countries on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk mitigation during the period 2007-2013. Complementing the programmes on nuclear safety under the Instruments for Nuclear Safety Cooperation and Pre-accession Assistance, the G8 Global Partnership activities are expected to include assistance on nuclear security, the engagement of relevant scientists, export controls, border monitoring, illicit financing, biosafety, biosecurity and, more generally, illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological materials.

European Union common foreign and security policy decisions to support nuclear security

Through five European Union Council decisions in the framework of the common foreign and security policy, providing a total of €31.3 million, the European Union has become, together with the bilateral contributions of European Union Member States, the major donor to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. This fund is used, inter alia, to support the implementation of the Agency's nuclear security plan through its Office of Nuclear Security. The plan builds on existing international legal instruments and agreements to help States strengthen their nuclear security, which constitutes an essential pillar for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The contributions provided by the European Union to the Nuclear Security Fund have the aim to create an enabling environment for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and applications. They have been used to support IAEA assistance projects aimed at strengthening the security of nuclear and radioactive materials in the Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Mediterranean region, Africa and South-East Asia. Areas of assistance include legislative and regulatory assistance for the implementation of States' obligations under IAEA safeguards agreements and the Additional Protocol, strengthening the physical protection of nuclear and radiological materials and strengthening States' capabilities for detection of, and response to, illicit trafficking.

A fifth European Union common foreign and security policy Council decision extending the geographical scope of European Union support to the Nuclear Security Fund by €9.96 million was approved by the Council in September 2010, and is currently being implemented.

European Union technical support to the IAEA

The IAEA bases its technical and scientific programme on contributions from the Member State support programmes. In the field of nuclear safeguards, the European Commission cooperative support programme to the IAEA started in 1981. It is operated by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and its Institutes at Ispra, Italy; Geel, Belgium; and Karlsruhe, Germany. Today the European Commission Cooperative Support Programme ranks second out of a total of 21 IAEA Member State support programmes, in terms of number of active tasks. The programme provides the IAEA with technology and expertise as well as training in many technical areas related to the effective implementation of safeguards verification measures, including the detection of undeclared materials, activities and facilities. In the field of combating the illicit trafficking of nuclear materials, the Joint Research Centre supports the IAEA in the areas of detection and nuclear forensics by providing technical expertise and offering training sessions for customs officers and experts from IAEA member States. The JRC will work with the IAEA on the improvement of the IAEA Illicit Trafficking Data Base according to the EU CBRN action plan recommendations. Coordination of activities in the areas of forensics and detection, with the IAEA and other major actors, takes place regularly at the nuclear smuggling international working group and at the border monitoring working group. The Joint Research Centre is co-chairing these two groups.

The European Union also facilitates IAEA verification tasks within the European Union, where the Euratom Safeguards act as the regional system for nuclear material accountancy and control. By sharing its safeguards know-how, the European Commission also contributes to the development of IAEA methodologies, equipment and facilities.

Seventh Euratom framework programme for nuclear research and training

The EU's 7th Euratom Framework Programme (2007-2011) currently supports specific research activities framed within Nuclear Cooperation Agreements with emerging third countries, and within the Generation IV International Forum (GIF). So far countries, such as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, India, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, South Korea and Ukraine, have benefitted from this. The Council of the European Union has agreed on a general approach for extending the EU's 7th Euratom Framework Programme for nuclear research and training (2012-2013).

Nuclear cooperation agreements with third countries

Euratom (the European Atomic Energy Community) has negotiated nuclear-related cooperation agreements with the following third countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and the United States of America. These agreements covers various issues, including nuclear trade, research activities (nuclear safety, nuclear research and fusion energy research), as well as other activities supporting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.