EU General Statement
before the vote on Cluster 1 (Nuclear Weapons)

by
Mr. András Kos
Minister Counsellor
Delegation of the European Union

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Mr. Chairman,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of 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 Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

With regards to the Middle East in the nuclear cluster, I would like to make the following observations.

The EU reaffirms its support for the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and recalls the affirmation of its goals and objectives by the 2000 and the 2010 Review Conferences. We consider the 1995 Resolution valid until its goals and objectives are achieved. We deeply regret that the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems has not been convened. We maintain the view that dialogue and building confidence among all stakeholders is the only sustainable way to agree arrangements for a meaningful conference, to be attended by all States of the Middle East on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by them as decided by the 2010 Review Conference. We wish to record our appreciation to the Facilitator, Ambassador Jaakko Laajava and his team for their tireless efforts in this regard, including at the five informal meetings in Switzerland.

We call on all states in the region, which have not yet done so, to accede to the NPT and the conventions for the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to conclude with the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, Additional Protocols and, as applicable, modified Small Quantities Protocols.

The EU welcomes the historic agreement of 14 July between the E3/EU+3 and Iran on a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in full conformity with the principles of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). On the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) and the JCPOA, we fully support the IAEA's long term mission of verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear related commitments for the full duration of these commitments. Its full and sustained implementation, which requires the application and subsequent necessary ratification of the Additional Protocol to Iran's Safeguards Agreement, as foreseen in the agreement, is an essential prerequisite for the IAEA to be able to provide, in due course, credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran and provide the international community with the necessary assurances on the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. It will also contribute positively to regional and international peace and security. In this regard, we welcome the decision taken by Iran on 18 October to provisionally apply the Additional Protocol. The provisional application and the

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
subsequent ratification by Iran of the Additional Protocol will demonstrate Iran’s commitment to the normalization of the nuclear issue.

The EU also looks forward to the full and timely implementation of the "Roadmap for the clarification of past and present outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear programme" agreed on 14 July between the IAEA and Iran. It is important that Iran cooperates fully with the Agency regarding Possible Military Dimensions, as agreed in the roadmap. We underline that resolving all outstanding issues will be essential in the framework of the implementation of the JCPOA and for rebuilding confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear programme.

The EU fully supported the adoption of the resolution of the Board of Governors of 9 June 2011, which reported Syria's non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement to the UN Security Council and the General Assembly. We deeply regret that Syria has still to remedy its non-compliance by cooperating as a matter of priority and transparently with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues, and by signing, bringing into force and implementing in full an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

Thank you.