

## **Statement by the President of the European Council**

### **The Hague Nuclear Security Summit**

Let me begin by thanking Prime Minister Rutte and the Dutch Government for hosting the third Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague.

We are convening here at a time when international peace and security are once again at risk. We, as world leaders, have the responsibility to maintain international order based on the rule of law. We have to redouble our efforts to build a peaceful and united world, where disputes are solved through negotiations, and not through force.

The European Union is convinced that a multilateral approach is the best way to address global security challenges, such as proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

Since the Washington and Seoul Summits, significant progress has been made worldwide in reducing and securing weapons-usable nuclear material. Many states improved their physical protection, control, and accountancy measures. This Summit has become an important platform to accelerate and sustain such progress.

The European Union is united in its effort to ensure the highest level of nuclear security. All EU Member States take the risk of terrorism and other acts of sabotage seriously. The European Union has become one of the key actors in this field, both within Europe and globally. We enjoy very close cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and with most of the countries, here today.

To give a few examples:

- The EU is currently the largest donor to the Agency's Nuclear Security Fund. So far, more than 40 million euros have been provided for assistance in more than 100 countries. We support the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- Our bilateral assistance activities have contributed to improving security standards and preventing illicit trafficking. The EU Centres of Excellence initiative on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear security will help tackle these risks in eight world regions - Central and West Africa, the Maghreb, the Middle East, the Gulf, the Caucasus and Central and South East Asia. The EU has so far contributed 100 million euros to this project, which is carried out jointly with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

- The EU equally supports the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the G-8 Global Partnership programme, where the total commitments of the European Commission and EU Member States exceed 5 billion euros.
  
- Within the European Union, we are working actively to put in place more than 100 recommendations of the Action Plan on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear security. We are constantly improving our capability to prevent, detect and respond to all types of hazards - criminal, accidental and natural.

- We have succeeded in strengthening regulatory control of radioactive sources by aligning EU laws with IAEA provisions. This will further reduce the possibility for non-state actors to misuse radioactive sources, which are easy to reach and numerous in numbers. An increased emphasis at this Summit on security of radioactive sources as well as on information security, is welcome.

Your Excellencies,

Further work is required to secure *all* nuclear material in *all* countries. This is a collective endeavour, which goes beyond the countries represented in this room. The European Union will continue to reach out and provide assistance. We will continue to encourage all states to adhere to international legal instruments. We will continue to promote, in all fora, the importance of nuclear security, including at the upcoming Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, where we should strive for a balanced approach between the Treaty's three pillars - disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It is in our shared interest to ensure that the best safety, security and non-proliferation standards are followed in all countries using nuclear energy.

I thank you for your attention.