European External Action Service (EEAS)

EU Statement on NPT Safeguards Agreement with Syria, IAEA Board of Governors on 5 June 2024

2024-06-05 · Press and information team of the Delegation to UN and OSCE in Vienna

Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The candidate countries Türkiye, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina[1] and Georgia, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as San Marino align themselves with this statement.

The EU thanks the Director General for the update provided in his opening statement to the Board and the Secretariat for its tireless efforts to address the implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in Syria.

Regrettably, it is now almost 13 years that Syria has been found in non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement. The EU remains deeply concerned by the continued absence of cooperation by Syria and the lack of any progress in resolving the long outstanding questions regarding the Deir Ezzor site and three other locations.

The EU supports the continued efforts of the Director General to re-engage with Syria. In this regard, we take note of the new engagement agreed between the IAEA and Syria during the DG’s visit to Damascus on 19 March and urge Syria to seize this opportunity to constructively engage with the Agency on the outstanding issues.

We, once again, strongly urge Syria to fully comply with the Board of Governors resolution of June 2011, provide the necessary information and cooperation to the IAEA, and conclude and bring into force an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

Chair,

Syria must be held accountable for its lack of action and urgently remedy this non-compliance. Until it fully cooperates with the Agency, we request the Director General to keep the Board of Governors informed about this issue and maintain this item on the Board agenda.

Thank you, Chair.

[1] North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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