

Exchange of Views with European Parliament

The work of the IAEA at an unprecedented moment in history

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C'est un plaisir de pouvoir à nouveau procéder avec vous à un échange de vues sur des sujets très importants et urgents. Beaucoup de choses ont changé depuis notre dernier échange de vues en ligne en mars de l'année dernière. Je suis heureux de pouvoir vous tenir au courant de mes activités et de celles de l'AIEA.

Je tiens à remercier d'abord la Présidente Nathalie LOISEAU et le Président Witold WASZCZYKOWSKI pour leur invitation et pour leurs déclarations liminaires.

Je commencerai par vous parler des questions de sûreté, de sécurité et de garanties concernant les installations nucléaires de l'**Ukraine**.

Depuis le début de l'action militaire de la Russie en Ukraine, le 24 février, l'AIEA travaille sans relâche pour aider l'Ukraine à maintenir ses installations nucléaires aussi sûres et sécurisées que possible. Par mes rapports quotidiens (*updates*), j'ai permis au monde de se tenir informé des faits survenant sur le terrain dans les installations, interrompant le battage médiatique incessant par des informations vérifiées, impartiales et claires.

Notre Centre des incidents et des urgences a fonctionné sans accroc pendant cette situation sans précédent, où pour la première fois un conflit militaire touche directement les sites d'un grand programme électronucléaire.

En mars, une action militaire a endommagé des parties du complexe de la centrale nucléaire de Zaporizhzhia et les troupes russes en ont le contrôle depuis lors. Il importe au plus haut point que les vérificateurs de l'AIEA puissent accéder au site pour veiller à ce qu'un niveau approprié de sûreté, de sécurité et de garanties soit respecté.

Les troupes russes ont également occupé la centrale nucléaire de Tchernobyl et la zone d'exclusion pendant plusieurs semaines. L'action menée aux deux installations a violé ou menacé plusieurs des sept piliers sacro-saints de la sûreté nucléaire.

Le 4 mars, alors que je me rendais à Téhéran pour le dernier de mes entretiens avec les responsables iraniens, j'ai informé le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies. Tout au long des derniers mois, j'ai été en contact régulier avec le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, Antonio Guterres, et avec des chefs d'État des quatre continents.

In addition to the IAEA assisting Ukrainian operators and regulators remotely, I have been determined to respond to the country's request for the IAEA's on-the-ground support.

That is why in March, I travelled to the South Ukraine NPP, even though at the time Ukraine was not yet being visited by heads of state or international organizations. My team and I were not only there to show solidarity. We delivered some equipment and met with

the NPP's staff to discuss their wide-ranging needs for assistance. Senior Ukrainian officials, including the country's energy minister, travelled from Kyiv to meet us there and we held important talks that laid the groundwork for the IAEA's on-the-ground assistance phase that is now starting.

On April 26, I led a mission of IAEA experts in safety, security and safeguards to Chernobyl's NPP and Exclusion Zone. Together with the most senior leadership of Ukraine's nuclear energy sector, we marked the 36th anniversary of the 1986 Chernobyl accident.

I met with Chernobyl's courageous staff who operated the site without shift change and under unconscionable conditions during the occupation by Russian troops. My team and I delivered much-needed equipment; undertook radiation measurements; and reestablished safeguards at the site.

I travelled directly from Chernobyl to Kyiv to meet with President Volodymyr Zelensky, assuring him of our continued support. Over the coming weeks, this support will see more teams of IAEA experts travelling to Ukrainian nuclear facilities to deliver equipment and assist in maintaining safety and security, and in helping Ukraine uphold its safeguards obligations.

I would like to thank you all, the EU, and the individual States that have supported this indispensable mission.

Ukraine's vast and wide-ranging need for assistance is matched in size and range by the enormous goodwill of countries and organizations wanting to help. The IAEA, with its deep expertise and wide network, is the natural hub to facilitate such assistance, and stands ready to serve that role.

Distinguished Members of the European Parliament,

The military conflict in Ukraine has not stopped other important IAEA work, including that on **Iran's** nuclear programme.

Since 23 February 2021, the Agency's verification and monitoring activities in relation to the nuclear deal – the JCPOA – have been seriously affected by Iran's decision to stop the implementation of its nuclear-related commitments, including the Additional Protocol, under the deal.

We hope and expect that surveillance data from all our cameras installed for activities in relation to the JCPOA, as well as our on-line enrichment monitors, electronic seals or installed measurement devices, will continue to be stored and made available to the Agency if and when Iran resumes implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA.

Iran continues to produce UF₆ enriched up to 20% and up to 60%

U-235 at its enrichment facilities. As of 10 May, Iran is estimated to have a stockpile of about 42 kg of uranium enriched up to 60%.

This is an unprecedented level of enrichment for a non-nuclear weapons State Party to the NPT, and it is cause for serious concern.

We continue our efforts to clarify and resolve issues related to the implementation of Iran's NPT Safeguards Agreement – traces of nuclear material we found at three undeclared locations in Iran. In March, I agreed with the Vice-President of Iran on a series of steps aimed at the resolution of these issues. This process is now underway.

With regards to **DPRK**, the Agency assesses that DPRK's nuclear programme remains active and that fissile material production is ongoing, including through operation of the 5MW(e) reactor at the Yongbyon nuclear facility since July 2021.

We have recently observed new activities at the Punggye-ri nuclear test site that indicate that some parts of the site are being restored. Some of these activities are consistent with possible preparations for a nuclear test. If DPRK were to conduct a nuclear test, it would be a matter of serious concern. As has been the case for some time now, the IAEA maintains its enhanced readiness to return to DPRK as soon as it is possible.

Underpinning nuclear safety, security and safeguards is an every-agile and evolving framework of **laws**, guidelines and standards. As depository, the IAEA hosted the first review of the Convention for the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material as amended (A/CPPNM). Not only was a resolution passed, despite the backdrop of strained geopolitical relations, enough state parties agreed to charge me with organizing the next review within the coming 5 years. This success is a testament not only to the people who made it happen, but also the huge importance of the convention and its amendment.

Nuclear law is a dynamic, complex and important field that needs to be debated and shaped by the very best lawyers, scientists, diplomats and specialists. To that end, the IAEA just held its First International Conference on Nuclear Law; compiled a book of essays by top international experts in the field; launched an initiative to increase the visibility of nuclear law at universities; and decided to hold further gatherings on the subject on the sidelines of future IAEA General Assemblies.

Distinguished Members of the European Parliament,

The IAEA's unique and indispensable mission to increase access to peaceful nuclear technology has also continued. In February, I launched **Rays of Hope** on the margins of the African Union

Summit with the strong support of African leaders and heads of key international agencies, including Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization. The initiative widens the access to life-saving technology, such as radiotherapy, to cancer patients in Africa developing countries on other continents. Meanwhile, our **ZODIAC** project is progressing and now has a global network of experts and labs. Through ZODIAC, we are assisting our Member States in enhancing their capacity to detect zoonotic diseases and prevent them from spreading. Under **NUTEC** Plastics, we are helping Member States to expand their use of nuclear techniques to address the challenges of plastic pollution.

Many of the areas in which the IAEA assists countries towards their Sustainable **Development** Goals (SDGs) are also priority areas in the EU's development agenda and central to Agenda 2030. I believe the EU and the IAEA could work more closely together in reaching their shared goals, and hope that the support the IAEA receives from individual Member States will in time be supplemented by support from EU budgets.

I have had good conversations with Director General Koen Doens of INTPA and I will be seeing Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen later this week. I count on you as MEPs to support my efforts for the closer collaboration of the European Commission and the IAEA so that we use our institutions' assets and strengths to help address

some of the biggest challenges Europe and the world face today and tomorrow.

In closing, I would like to touch on one of those challenges and the turning point at which we find ourselves with regard to **energy** policy. In the past months, security of supply concerns have supercharged the drive towards a more sustainable energy supply. We are at a critical moment on our journey towards ensuring a low carbon and reliable mix of energy that will fuel our economies, while allowing us to avoid the lethal and devastating effects of climate change and air pollution.

Recent events have prompted a big turn towards nuclear, in Europe and beyond. I firmly believe this increased commitment to nuclear energy is consistent with the wide and deep scientific and academic data, as well as the risk/reward balance that every decision in energy requires, even when considering the current situation in Ukraine.

No single energy source will ever be the answer. No country will ever have exactly the same energy mix as another country. For some countries, nuclear will offer a bridge until other technologies, such as batteries or even carbon capture, become viable. Some countries will decide nuclear is not for them, no matter what.

But I am convinced everyone will benefit from a world that

increasingly is accepting nuclear energy as part of the solution. This is why I welcome the proposal to include nuclear in the EU's taxonomy. The proposal follows the conclusion of a comprehensive, impartial report by the EC's own top scientists and experts. As the head of a technical and scientific organization at the center of the nuclear field, I have found their decision to confirm what science tells us about nuclear's benefits – it's low carbon; it's safe and its waste can be dealt so it does not harm future generations.

Nuclear is one of the world's most highly regulated energy sources and it benefits from an always-learning, cooperative international network of experts, at the center of which stands the IAEA. In closing, I would like to assure you that you can count on the Agency and me personally, to continue assisting all our Member States as they work to maintain the high level of safety, security and safeguards measures that underpin nuclear energy's sustainability.

Thank you for your attention, I am at your disposal for questions or comments.