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**INTERVENCIÓN
EN NOMBRE DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA
DEL**

**EXCMO. SR. D. MIGUEL AGUIRRE DE CÁRCER
EMBAJADOR EN MISIÓN ESPECIAL PARA DESARME**

**Conferencia de Examen de las Partes de 2010 del Tratado de No
Proliferación de las Armas Nucleares (TNP)**

Comité Principal III

Nueva York, 10 de mayo de 2010

(Cotejar con intervención definitiva)

**STATEMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY**

**H.E. MIGUEL AGUIRRE DE CÁRCER
SPECIAL AMBASSADOR FOR DISARMAMENT**

**2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

Main Committee III

New York, 10 May 2010

(Check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Croatia* and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, and the EFTA Countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

1. I would like, first of all, to convey to you our firm determination to assist you in your endeavours as Chairman of this Committee with a view to contributing to a substantive and balanced outcome of the Review Conference, including the adoption of a set of concrete, effective, pragmatic and consensual measures for stepping up international efforts for ensuring a responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
2. The European Union is of the firm view that each country has the right to define its own energy strategy. The EU reaffirms its support for the inalienable right of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I, II and III of the Treaty. The European Union is strongly committed to the objectives of Article IV. Through multilateral and bilateral cooperation programmes, the EU supports many peaceful and beneficial applications of nuclear technology, in particular in developing countries.
3. The European Union will continue to provide its full support to the activities of an effective and efficient IAEA that has the adequate resources to fulfil its mandate of promoting international cooperation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, promoting nuclear safety and security, and strengthening effective safeguards to prevent nuclear proliferation, including threats of nuclear terrorism. The EU firmly supports the plans for modernization of the Safeguards Analytical Laboratory (SAL) of the IAEA in Seibersdorf and is preparing a significant contribution in this respect.
4. A growing number of States Parties to the NPT shows interest in developing civil nuclear programmes aimed at addressing their long-term energy requirements. Conscious of its obligations under Article IV of the Treaty, the EU will work towards promoting a responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy within a framework ensuring that technologies and goods are not disseminated for purposes other than peaceful uses. International cooperation based on a responsible

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy furthers implementation of the NPT and strengthens the global non proliferation regime.

5. In the Decision recently adopted by the EU Council of Ministers, we have identified the following priority issues that we consider should be addressed by States parties at this Review Conference, within this Main Committee: broadening acceptance and support of the concept of responsible development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions and of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle.
6. We reaffirm the concrete and realistic measures which the EU presented to the 2009 NPT PrepCom, as part of its forward-looking proposals on all three pillars of the NPT which could be part of an action plan to be adopted by the Review Conference. In addition to the points just mentioned, these measures are:
 - a) Assisting countries to plan and assess their various energy needs;
 - b) Actively supporting efforts to further develop multilateral schemes that may offer a credible alternative to the development of national enrichment and reprocessing capabilities;
 - c) Promoting the most stringent non-proliferation, nuclear safety and security standards and practices by assisting willing partners to set up the right regulatory, administrative and human environments;
 - d) Encouraging countries, which have not done so, to join all relevant major nuclear conventions, in particular in the fields of nuclear safety, physical protection and civil nuclear liability;
 - e) Promoting responsible management of spent fuel and nuclear waste, and assisting countries to plan waste management solutions, including regionally;
 - f) Assisting countries to set up or to reinforce robust export control systems;
 - g) Supporting IAEA assistance programs and IAEA nuclear security fund with funding and technical expertise;
 - h) Supporting national, bilateral and international efforts to train the necessary skilled workforce required to ensure the responsible development of peaceful uses of the nuclear energy under best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions;
 - i) In managing nuclear power programmes, governments should seek to ensure the maximum appropriate transparency and access to information;

- j) Promoting health and agricultural nuclear applications, in particular the fight against cancer in the developing world, hydrological applications, and helping developing countries to improve radio-protection.
7. Nuclear power can be only developed in an environment of mutual trust. In today's world, more globalized and witnessing increased interest in nuclear energy on the part of a number of countries, it is important that the development of nuclear energy for peaceful uses by countries wishing to develop their capacities in this field takes place in accordance with the best safety, security and non-proliferation standards. Let me recall that in the framework of the EURATOM Treaty, the EU has seen the development, over the past 50 years, of a world leading nuclear industry, based on these high standards. The EU encourages NPT States party to reaffirm and comply with the principles and standards governing the responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
 8. Peaceful nuclear activities and cooperation in this area are closely related to the non-proliferation obligations that arise from the NPT. The EU recalls in this regard that the right to use nuclear energy, consistent with the NPT, requires the observance of non-proliferation commitments, the implementation of IAEA safeguards agreements, which should include the Additional Protocol, and the pursuit of peaceful purposes in conformity with Articles I, II and III of the NPT. We remain committed to upholding that compliance and effective verification will not hinder the use of nuclear energy, but rather facilitate its responsible development as an energy source and enhance confidence within the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

9. We are committed to further contribute towards a strengthened international cooperation in this respect and we underline the importance of continuing international cooperation in order to strengthen nuclear safety, safe waste management, radiological protection and civil nuclear liability. We further call on countries that have not yet done so to join all relevant nuclear conventions and to make maximum use of the IAEA's expertise and assistance.
10. The EU also recognizes the need to support States interested in developing a nuclear power programme in their efforts to establish the prerequisite safety, security, and non-proliferation infrastructure, by helping them to set up the right regulatory, administrative, and human environment and to train the adequate man power. The EU has always encouraged the IAEA to continue education and training programmes. The EU notes with interest the International Conference on access to civil nuclear energy, held in Paris on 8-9 March 2010, which allowed a

fruitful exchange of experience on the environment needed to enable the responsible development of civil nuclear energy.

11. The EU will continue to be a strong supporter of the activities of the IAEA destined to increase the contribution of nuclear technology to peace, health and economic development, including the Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA. I would like to recall that the EU is engaged in many technical cooperation programmes. The 27 Member States of the EU collectively make an important contribution to the IAEA's budget and provide a significant proportion of the voluntary contributions to its Technical Cooperation Fund.
12. The EU attaches utmost importance to a high level of nuclear safety worldwide and provides additional support to the Agency's projects for improving nuclear safety and security through its relevant instruments, such as the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation, as well as through considerable bilateral support to IAEA Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

13. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening nuclear security, particularly in view of the threat posed by nuclear and radiological terrorism, and we will continue to support IAEA activities in this field. The EU is the major contributor to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. More than 20 million Euros have been spent to improve the nuclear security situation in third countries. We call on the States Parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material to ratify as soon as possible the Amendment to the Convention, in order to expedite its entry into force. We encourage the minimization of the use of highly enriched uranium in peaceful nuclear activities, wherever technically and economically feasible.
14. Also in this context, the EU remains firmly convinced of the benefits of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, in which assurance mechanisms, singly or in conjunction with other complementary mechanisms, would complement the existing well-functioning market without distorting it, and would better guarantee the right of peaceful uses of nuclear energy by providing nuclear fuel supply security for countries developing a nuclear programme in the best possible safety, security and non-proliferation conditions.
15. Several initiatives, including the establishment of a Low Enriched Uranium bank under the control of the IAEA, can provide back-up mechanisms to interested countries and facilitate long-term multilateral solutions. These mechanisms can benefit all interested countries and especially those which have recently initiated a nuclear power generation programme or are considering to do so. The EU remains ready to contribute up to 25 million Euros for the establishment of the IAEA nuclear fuel bank, once the conditions and modalities for the bank have been defined and approved by the IAEA Board of Governors. The EU is

in favour of a prompt implementation of the IAEA Low-Enriched Uranium Bank. In this regard, the EU also welcomes the recent agreement between the IAEA and the Russian Federation to establish a reserve of Low Enriched Uranium for supply to the IAEA for its Member States. Several EU Member States have also put forward their own proposals.

16. We look forward to this Review Conference encouraging a commitment on the part of all NPT States parties for further detailed work, within the IAEA, for the development of these initiatives and increased dialogue and consultations to clarify outstanding issues and to achieve a satisfactory outcome.
17. The EU also welcomes the initiatives taken by the Director General of the IAEA in the area of non-power applications of nuclear energy, for example medical applications, particularly in the area of cancer diagnosis and treatment in developing countries, to enhance the contribution of nuclear energy to health, economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

18. We will be delivering a specific statement in Subsidiary Body 3, on Article X of the Treaty. However, I would like, at this point, to recall that the issue of Treaty withdrawal has been repeatedly raised by the European Union in the course of discussions and with the tabling of a working paper at the First PrepCom in 2007.
19. While each State party has a sovereign right to withdraw from the NPT, a withdrawal could, in a given case, constitute a threat to international peace and security. Consequently, we believe the international community should respond to a notice of withdrawal and its consequences with purpose and urgency, including the requirement for the Security Council to act promptly and in particular to address without delay any State's notice of withdrawal from the NPT.
20. We will be calling on NPT States parties to promote the adoption of measures in this regard, including arrangements for maintaining adequate IAEA safeguards on all nuclear materials, equipment, technologies and facilities developed for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chairman,

21. The strengthening of the global non-proliferation regime and the responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should go hand in hand. The EU calls on all States Parties to be united in securing concrete means to promote a responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the best possible safety, security, and non-proliferation standards by countries wishing to develop their capacities in this field. We wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman, and all States parties to the NPT of our determination to engage in serious and pragmatic

discussions and negotiations on all issues considered within Main Committee III, in order to contribute to a substantive and balanced outcome of this 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.