



FACTSHEET

Nuclear Security Summit The Hague, 24-25 March 2014

The third Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) will be hosted by the Netherlands in The Hague. It will bring together leaders of 53 countries and four international organisations.

The EU will be represented at the meeting by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council and José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission. The summit is expected to conclude with the adoption of "The Hague Communiqué".

This third summit will be an important yardstick to measure progress in efforts to strengthen global nuclear security and take stock of results achieved in the past four years since the 2010 Washington and the 2012 Seoul summits.

The leaders are also expected to discuss the future of the summit process. President Obama has already announced the holding of the next summit in 2016 in the US.

In the margins of the summit, the European Commission together with the EEAS will organize an EU High-level Event on "International cooperation to enhance a worldwide nuclear security culture". This conference will take place in Amsterdam on 20 March 2014.

Background:

The first Nuclear Security Summit initiated by President Obama and held in Washington in 2010, brought together 47 countries and international organisations (EU, UN, IAEA, Interpol). Six more countries were invited in 2012 to join.

The nuclear accident at Fukushima in 2011 triggered additional activities, also in the EU, in the area of nuclear safety, notably the so called "stress test exercise" and the revision of the nuclear safety legislative framework, as well as nuclear security and emergency preparedness measures.

The second summit in Seoul in 2012 added additional priorities such as the security of radioactive sources and information security related to nuclear activities, which are high on the EU priority list. These new activities are relevant to the EU's overall objective of achieving the highest level of nuclear safety and security.

The EU has been a forerunner in international efforts to strengthen nuclear security since the adoption of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in 2003 and the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2005. The EU supports the universalisation and full implementation of relevant international treaties, such as the amended Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

The EU provides substantial financial support to the International Atomic Energy Agency, contributes to the G8 Global Partnership, participates in the work of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and supports the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540. More than 100 countries around the world are benefiting from the EU's nuclear security assistance.

P R E S S

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The EU's chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) Action Plan, adopted in 2009, aims at strengthening CBRN security throughout the European Union. It is in line with and implements most of the recommendations of the Washington Work plan. The Action Plan's goal is to reduce the threat of, and damage from CBRN incidents of accidental, natural and intentional origin, including possible terrorist acts in Europe.

As in 2012, EU services prepared a summary document on "EU efforts to strengthen nuclear security" which sets out the main EU achievements since the last Summit, which will be available on the EU and the Summit websites. Some achievements and contributions are described below;

- The amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), approved by the Council in 2007, is expected to be ratified soon by all Member States and Euratom.
- The European Commission cooperative support programme, established in 1981 continues to provide the framework for the technical support to the IAEA in the field of nuclear safeguards. It has been involved in more than 125 projects in different technical and application areas. The European Commission and the US Department of Homeland Security, in cooperation with the IAEA and the US Department of Energy, jointly implemented an Illicit Trafficking Radiation Assessment Program.
- The European Commission Joint Research Centre in 2013 established a Nuclear Security Training Centre, with a training facility at its sites in Karlsruhe and Ispra.
- Following the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011, the EU launched comprehensive risk and safety assessments ("stress tests") of all of its nuclear power plants to ensure that they are not at risk from similar extreme events. National Action Plans describe the actions that are being implemented and their schedule to improve the safety of nuclear power plants operated in Europe. Reporting on the progress made in the implementation of these actions will take place throughout the course of the current year.
- The EU framework for radiation protection has been revised with a view to fully integrating the regulatory control of radioactive sources. The new EU Basic Safety Standards adopted by the Council in December 2013 consolidate five existing EU Directives, including the High-Activity Sealed Sources (HASS) Directive.
- The EC implements the Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programme in three Member States. This programme provides financial support to Lithuania, Slovakia and Bulgaria based on the Treaty of Accession. The Treaty foresaw the early closure and subsequent decommissioning of Ignalina Units 1&2 (Lithuania), Bohunice V1 Units 1&2 (Slovakia) and Kozloduy Units 1-4 (Bulgaria). €2 830 million in financial support was provided until the end of 2013. In December 2013 the EU decided to extend this financial assistance with an additional €969 million. These funds will contribute to the continuation of safe decommissioning of the nuclear power plants. The Union assistance for decommissioning of nuclear power plants aims at reaching an irreversible state in the decommissioning process and eliminating a major source of radiological hazard.
- The EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation, launched in 2010, is currently working with more than 40 countries. Since January 2013, about 37 projects have been selected and are being implemented in eight regions. The initiative will benefit from a budget of €156 million for the period 2014-2020.
- The EU is strongly involved in the programme addressing the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe in Ukraine. A large plan of action derived from the Ukrainian Strategic Roadmap focuses on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, including projects in the Chernobyl exclusion zone. It is establishing state-of-the-art waste treatment facilities in line with international best practices as well as a modern national waste repository in the Chernobyl exclusion zone. For the construction of the new Shelter of reactor 4 Chernobyl the Commission contributes €400 million. In parallel, the EU is implementing social projects supporting the population impacted by the accident and living in the region.
- The latest Council Decision in support of the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund (2013/517/CFSP of 21 October 2013) provides €8.05 million to support nuclear security measures in states all around the world.