



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 14-18 September 2020
Agenda Item 3: Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) Project**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [Turkey[§], the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Liechtenstein*, Norway*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and San Marino.]
2. *The EU wishes to thank Director General Grossi for his report contained in GOV/INF/2020/13 and takes note of the proposed TC project on “Supporting National and Regional Capacity in Integrated Action for Control of Zoonotic Diseases” in GOV/2020/37.*
3. We express our appreciation for the organisation of the technical briefings on 14 July, 3 and 10 September on the ZODIAC project.
4. The EU highly appreciates the quick actions taken by Agency in providing support to many Member States in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and the rapid preparation of the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action or “ZODIAC” project.
5. The EU supports the Agency’s effort to contribute to international efforts to strengthen global capacity to detect, prevent and respond to zoonotic diseases through the use of nuclear and nuclear derived techniques.
6. We believe the Agency should to further consult with external stakeholders whose involvement is key for the project, including experts from international organisations such as the World Health Organisation and the Organisation for Animal Health, as well as from Member States. These counterparts should be close partners in the project design, preparation and implementation.
7. In view of the exceptional budget amount considered for the ZODIAC project, the EU would welcome more detailed information on the attributions of the project and on the related TC project, in particular a more detailed breakdown of the project’s costs, as well as on the coherence with and impact on other IAEA projects and the structure and organisation of the team tasked to oversee the management of the project.

[§] Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

*Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

8. We look forward to our further engagement on this matter.
9. With these comments, the EU takes note of the report as contained in document GOV/INF/2020/13 and of the project proposal as contained in GOV/2020/37.

Thank you, Madam Chair.