

European Union
Opening Remarks of the EU Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and
Disarmament on the Occasion of the 15th Anniversary of ICSANT
Vienna, December 12th, 2022

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we celebrate 15 years of ICSANT - a key international instrument that helps us mitigate the risks linked to nuclear proliferation by non-state actors. In times as these when the rules-based international order is under tremendous pressure because of the gross violations of the UN Charter, our joint efforts towards nuclear security and multilateralism are needed now more than ever.

Over the past 20 years, the European Union has been actively working on measures to combat proliferation and to enhance global nuclear security. To achieve this goal, the EU promotes – in cooperation with the UN and other international organisations – the universalisation, implementation, and strengthening of the key multilateral treaties. We remain a steadfast supporter of ICSANT and the many good projects implemented by UNODC and UNOTC assisting States to join the Convention and effectively implement its provisions.

Since 2018, the EU has contributed 5 million euros in project funding to help the ICSANT grow, evolve, enhance, and improve. Last year, through this project, the ICSANT website was launched, offering good practices and model legislation to interested States. The EU has also supported the release of The Manual on Fictional Cases related to Offences under this Convention, as well as tailor-made e-learning modules and other training materials.

We greatly appreciate the vast experience accumulated by the UNODC, the UNOCT and the IAEA in assisting States to prevent and counter acts of nuclear terrorism. Further synergies between relevant international organisations are crucial to facilitate international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building. We are convinced that these efforts will greatly enhance our collective security by reducing the likelihood of nuclear and other radioactive material falling into wrong hands and being used for terrorist or other criminal purposes.

My appreciation belongs in particular to UNODC for organising today's high-level event together with Canada and the European Union.

I would like to invite all UN Member States to join this important Convention. By doing so, you will help progress with our common goal towards the universalisation of ICSANT and strengthening the nuclear security architecture, culture, and practice across the globe. The EU hopes to see this community grow even further in the time to come. We count on your partnership in that.

I thank you.