



EUROPEAN UNION

Opening remarks for UNODC launching event on the new EU Council Decision in support of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)

18 September 2023

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here today, as the newly appointed EU Ambassador in Vienna, on the occasion of the launch of the new EU-funded project in support of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

We live in an era of unprecedented nuclear risks, amplified by the war in Ukraine. International law and the core principles of the UN Charter are under tremendous pressure, and we must do our utmost to protect and strengthen them.

The risk of nuclear and other radioactive material falling into wrong hands, whether terrorists or criminals is real. I cannot emphasize enough that while the responsibility for nuclear security rests within each individual State, our collective capability to effectively fight terrorism and organised crime requires broad, continuous and wide-ranging international and regional cooperation.

The EU remains at the forefront of international efforts to strengthen global nuclear security, as outlined in the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. We are very pleased to continue the cooperation with UNODC and with UNOCT (with a new financial allocation of €4 million) to promote the universalisation and implementation of one of the most important legal instruments in this area – ICSANT.

UNODC and UNOCT are doing a great work in assisting a large number of countries to join the Convention and establish robust and comprehensive national legislation to give full effect to the Convention.

I very much welcome that in a few days (on 20 September) Albania will become the 121st State joining the Convention, and I am pleased to see here Ambassador of Albania, Her Excellency Eglantina Gjermeni. The EU encourages all UN Member States to follow suit.

Again, big thanks to UNODC and UNOCT for your fruitful cooperation with the EU. I wish you every success in the implementation of the new project activities.