

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

31 March 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (hereinafter referred to as the "Safeguards Agreement"), and to the Small Quantities Protocol thereto (hereinafter referred to as "SQP") (INFCIRC/413), which entered into force on 15 October 1992 and under which the application of safeguards was suspended on 1 January 2008 (INFCIRC/413/Mod.1).

At its meeting of 20 September 2005, the IAEA Board of Governors (Board) concluded that the SQP based on the original standardized text was a weakness in the IAEA safeguards system. The Board, therefore, decided that the SQP should remain part of the IAEA safeguards system, subject to the modifications in the original standardized text and the change in the eligibility criteria for an SQP as proposed by the Director General. The Board also decided that, henceforth, it would approve only texts for such protocols based on a revised standardized text and subject to modified criteria.

The IAEA General Conference also called upon all States with unmodified SQPs to either rescind or amend their respective SQP as soon as their legal and constitutional requirements allow. In addition, the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons encouraged all States Parties with SQPs which have not yet done so to amend or rescind them, as appropriate, as soon as possible.

It is over 45 years since the original SQP was devised. Following the Board decision in 2005, most States, i.e. 63 out of 94, have in force an SQP based on the revised standardized text and 8 SQP States agreed to rescind their SQPs. In addition, there are a few States, including Lithuania, with comprehensive safeguards agreements in force with SQPs based on the original standardized text, which are no longer operational, i.e. terminated, owing to the fact that they have nuclear material in a facility.

In the light of this, I have decided to re-invigorate the IAEA's efforts to encourage all remaining States to amend or rescind their SQPs.

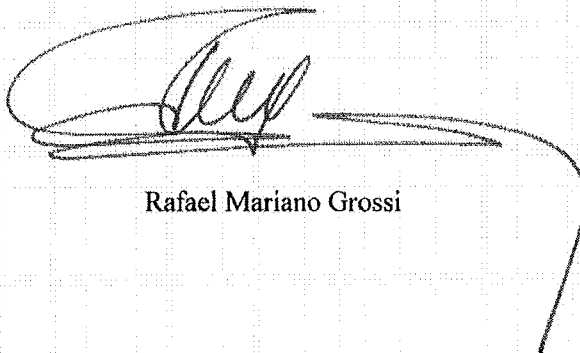
Ms Dangirute Vest
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania
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Lithuania has a bilateral Safeguards Agreement in force with the IAEA (INFCIRC/413), under which the application of safeguards has been suspended (INFCIRC/413/Mod.1) as a result of the entry into force for Lithuania of the Agreement between the non-nuclear-weapon States of EURATOM, EURATOM and the IAEA (INFCIRC/193), and a non-operational SQP to the bilateral Safeguards Agreement which have not yet been rescinded.

The SQP to Lithuania's Safeguards Agreement (INFCIRC/413) became non-operational before Lithuania acceded to INFCIRC/193, i.e. terminated, owing to the fact that your country had nuclear material in a facility. In this regard, I refer to the IAEA's letter to Lithuania dated 10 October 2006 and respectfully call again upon the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in line with the decision of the Board and pronouncements of the General Conference of the IAEA to rescind its non-operational SQP as soon as possible.

I look forward to receiving your reply at an early date.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Grossi', is written over a horizontal line. A long, thin, curved line extends from the right side of the signature, sweeping downwards and to the right.

Rafael Mariano Grossi