

General Conference

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Communication dated 29 October 2013 received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the Agency concerning statements delivered at the 57th regular session of the General Conference

1. The Director General has received a communication dated 29 October 2013 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the Agency concerning statements delivered at the IAEA 57th regular session of the General Conference.
2. As requested by the Permanent Mission, the communication is circulated herewith for information.

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**



2013/68324910/1073000

29 October 2013

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to present to Your Excellency our reaction to the baseless allegations in the "Communication dated 20 September 2013 received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the Agency concerning statements delivered at the 57th regular session of the General Conference", circulated by the Secretariat on 26 September 2013; document GC (57)/INF/14.

I would like to quote the following lines, the only lines that relate to the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant from Turkey's statement to the 57th regular session of the General Conference, also available on the IAEA website:

"The Fukushima incident has once more brought to the attention of the World the significance of nuclear safety. In order to prevent the re-occurrence of such an incident elsewhere, we must continue our efforts vigorously to enhance nuclear safety..."

We encourage the Agency to continue its efforts towards providing guidance, support and assistance to Member States in establishing and maintaining adequate safety regulations and infrastructure...

Especially the safety in old nuclear power plants needs to be thoroughly examined. In this respect the very old Metamor nuclear power plant which is located in an earthquake zone in Armenia and which lacks protective structures remains to be a concern for Turkey and other neighbors of Armenia. We once again underline that all necessary measures must be taken to eliminate the risks associated with the NPP".

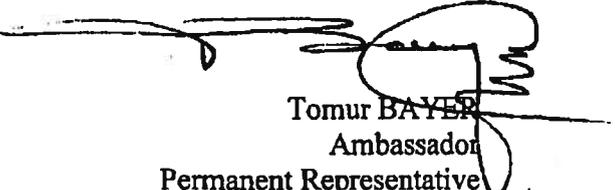
It is unfortunate that these lines that emphasize the importance attributed by Turkey to global nuclear safety, with particular reference to an old NPP situated just across from its border in a natural disaster prone region, are regarded as politically motivated allegations by the Permanent Representation of Armenia. These are not political lines, but an echo of the global concerns for nuclear safety that are voiced more and more openly following the Fukushima incident. I am, however, encouraged by the words from the letter regarding the cooperation between the IAEA and the Government of Armenia concerning the safety of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant. We would very much appreciate the Agency to inform the Member States, especially those that are in the vicinity of the said NPP, the nature and scope of the Agency's involvement, together with its assessment.

HE Yukiya AMANO
Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Furthermore, it is also unfortunate that the letter of the Permanent Representative of Armenia is devoted largely on issues that are not within the mandate or competence of the IAEA. However, in order not to let the accusations against Turkey to remain unanswered, I would like to remind that Turkey was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of the Republic of Armenia already on 16 December 1991 and also the country that invited Armenia to become a founding member of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on 25 June 1992, which Armenia currently has the Chairmanship-in-Office. Turkey wants neither the isolation of Armenia nor its denial from regional cooperation; quite the contrary, Turkey wants normalization of relations in the region which can be possible only with the constructive participation of Armenia. However, Armenia desists from recognizing the international borders between our two countries under the 1921 Kars Treaty. It also continues to occupy approximately 20% of the territory of its other neighbor. We would very much appreciate if Armenia could provide the Agency with the exact coordinates of its internationally recognized borders.

I will be grateful if this letter could be circulated to IAEA member states under the established procedures as reply to the document GC(57)/INF/14.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Tomur BAYER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative