

Nuclear safety

1. We welcome the progress made in the nuclear safety programme, agreed by the Munich and Tokyo summits, concerning the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union.
2. An effective framework for coordinated action is now in place. The World Bank, working with other lending institutions including the EBRD and the EIB, and with the IEA, is helping countries develop long term energy strategies. Some near-term safety improvements are on the way. More needs to be done and longer term actions must be carried out. The IFIs are invited according to their mandate to make full use of their lending possibilities for this purpose.
3. We remain committed to the existing international initiatives to promote an early closure of high risk reactors. The closing down of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is an urgent priority.
We are therefore putting forward to the Ukrainian Government an action plan for the closure of Chernobyl. This plan will require measures to be taken by the Ukrainian authorities as well as financial contributions from the international community.
The closure of Chernobyl would be accompanied by the early completion of three new reactors to adequate safety standards, by comprehensive reforms in the energy sector, increased energy conservation and the use of other energy sources.
4. In this context we welcome the contribution by the European Union. As a further step we are ready to provide for the Action Plan an initial amount of up to US \$ 200 million in grants, including a replenishment of the Nuclear Safety Account for this purpose. In addition loans should be provided by the IFIs.
We call on other donors and international financial institutions to join us in supporting this action plan and will review progress regularly.