

EFFORTS OF TURKEY IN COMBATING WITH ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND OTHER RADIOACTIVE SOURCES

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Illicit trafficking of nuclear materials and other radioactive sources creates both Non-Proliferation problem and also a radiation hazard risk for the law enforcement officers, public and the environment. Since the illicit trafficking and trading of nuclear materials and other radioactive sources have been increasing over the past years, it is very important to take immediate measures for preventing these activities.

Turkey, as a country having a unique position at the crossing points of the two major routes. One connecting the Black Sea to the Mediterranean and the other connecting Europe to Asia and the Middle East, is situated on the routes of illicit trafficking. Thus, Turkey attaches great importance in combating with illicit trafficking and strongly supports all efforts in this field.

After the IAEA resolution GC(XXXVIII)RES/15 requesting Member States to “take all necessary measures to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear materials” had been adopted. Turkey gave full support to the IAEA Programme on Combating Illicit of Nuclear and the other Radioactive Materials and also took some measures for combating such trading.

Regulatory activities regarding nuclear and radiological safety, including safeguards and physical protection in Turkey, are under the responsibility of the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAEA). The TAEA ensures that the licensed activities do not cause any unreasonable risk to the public and to environmental safety and they do not impair the common defense and security interest of Turkey

TAEA was established by the Act No.2690 of 9th July 1982 and replaced the Turkish Atomic Energy Commission created by the Act No.6821 in 1956. The Act No.2690 Authorizes the TAEA to carry out the activities connected with the fulfillment of Turkey’s obligations arising from international agreements of in the field of safeguards and physical protection.

This paper covers the efforts and coordination role of the TAEA’s planned activities and the measures planned to be taken to prevent uncontrolled movement of such materials are presented. The co-ordinative work of TAEA with other relevant organizations such as customs officers, police and ministries, is also introduced.