

PRESS RELEASE

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**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENCY
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
ON ACCESSION OF ALGERIA TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

The European Union welcomes the fact that Algeria has deposited on 12 January its instrument of accession to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as a non-nuclear weapon state.

The European Union stresses the importance of the conclusion by Algeria of a full scope safeguards agreement, applying to all of its nuclear activities, in order to complete the requirements following from the accession to the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty. To this end, the European Union invites Algeria to enter quickly into negotiations with the IAEA.

The European Union takes this opportunity to underscore its belief in universal adherence to the NPT and calls upon states which have not yet done so to accede to the NPT as non-nuclear weapon states.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the Union align themselves with this statement.