

RESTRICTIONS ON SALES OF URANIUM

Questions from the UNITED STATES to the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES¹

The following communication, dated 8 November 2004, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States.

Since 1992, the EU has maintained strict quantitative restrictions on imports of natural and enriched uranium to protect its domestic producers. Since 1994, import restrictions have been applied in accordance with the terms of a never published declaration, the Corfu Declaration, which reportedly imposes explicit quotas for imports of both natural and enriched uranium.

With respect to enriched uranium, we believe that only about 20 per cent of the European market is open to imports of enriched uranium. The quotas are enforced through licensing restrictions administered by the Euratom Supply Agency. Clearly these restrictions have had a negative impact on import suppliers and we believe it is time to provide more information on these restrictions.

The United States requests that the EU provide (1) a copy of the Corfu Declaration as well as relevant annexes addressing the issue of import access to the EU market for natural and enriched uranium, (2) clarification of the content and purpose of the Corfu Declaration, in particular concerning the quantitative restrictions placed on imports of enriched uranium, (3) a notification to the Committee of the licensing requirements that enforce these quotas, and (4) provision to the Committee of the legislation that enforces them.

¹ See Understanding on Procedures for the Review of Notifications (G/LIC/4).