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**Preparatory Committee for the
2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- Second Session -**

Geneva, 28 April - 9 May 2008

Specific Issues - Middle East

Statement by

**H. E. Ambassador Andrej Logar
Permanent Representative of Slovenia**

on behalf of the European Union

Geneva, 5 May 2008

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EU Statement

Mr. Chairman,

1. The EU is determined to play a part in addressing the problems of regional instability and insecurity and the situations of the conflict in the Middle East. To this end, the EU will continue to support regional security arrangements, including confidence building measures, and regional arms control and disarmament processes.
2. Taking into consideration that a solution to all these problems will not be easy to achieve in the short run, our policy is therefore to prevent, deter, halt and, where possible, eliminate proliferation programs of concern, while dealing with their underlying causes. We put special emphasis on the prevention side that includes positive *stimuli*, promoting alternatives to programs that may be problematic in terms of proliferation.
3. The EU Member States continue to attach great importance to achieving the universality of and universal compliance with the NPT. The possession of nuclear weapons by states outside the NPT and non-compliance with the Treaty's provisions by states party to the Treaty undermine non-proliferation and disarmament efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The EU continues to be actively engaged with Mediterranean partners in the framework of the Barcelona Process. In the context of the implementation of the chapter on political and security partnership of the 1995 Barcelona declaration, the EU with its Mediterranean Partners agreed to pursue a mutually and effectively verifiable Middle East Zone free of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their delivery systems. Furthermore, they agreed to consider practical steps to prevent the proliferation of WMD.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The EU has consistently advocated the implementation of the Resolutions on the Middle East adopted by the UN General Assembly and the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.
6. The EU calls upon the States of the region to establish an effectively verifiable zone free of nuclear weapons as well as of other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. We call upon all States in the region that have not yet done so to accede to the

NPT, the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions and to conclude with the IAEA a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and an Additional Protocol. We believe that the accession of all States in the area to the IAEA's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol should be a priority for the international community as a whole and would represent a crucial contribution to an overall improvement for the security and confidence in the Middle East.

7. The EU recalls that events in the region have led to the adoption of UNSCR 1696, 1737, 1747 and 1803. The EU reaffirms its full and unequivocal support for efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, which would significantly contribute to global non-proliferation efforts, and to realize the objective of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, including their means of delivery.

8. In addition, the EU notes with concern the statement by IAEA Director General ElBaradei on 25 April, relating to claims of an undeclared nuclear facility in one state party. The EU welcomes the decision of the IAEA to investigate this issue and calls upon all parties concerned to fully co-operate with the Agency in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

9. Full compliance by all States Parties to the NPT in the region with the non-proliferation and all other obligations of the Treaty is of key importance in realizing the objective of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons as well as of other weapons of mass destruction including their means of delivery. In addition, full compliance with IAEA safeguards agreements and pertinent UN Security Council Resolutions is crucial. The EU would like to reiterate that the accession of all States of the region to the NPT as non-nuclear weapon States is of critical importance to realizing this objective.
