

**Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty
Review Conference
Third session
New York, 4 - 15 May, 2009**

Statement on behalf of the European Union

**Regional issues and the implementation
of the 1995 Middle East resolution**

by

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(Check against delivery)

Mr Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.
2. The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this declaration.
3. Since regional issues play important role in the NPT context and these were not covered in our general statement, I will go deeper in more detail on them.
4. The EU is determined to play a part in addressing the problems of regional instability and insecurity and the situations of conflict which lie behind many weapons programmes. To this end, the EU will continue to support regional security arrangements, including confidence building measures, and regional arms control and disarmament processes
5. 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.
6. The EU continues to work very hard towards achieving the universality of the NPT and universal compliance with its provisions, since we believe that this Treaty, based on three mutually reinforcing pillars, represents a unique and irreplaceable framework for maintaining and strengthening international, but also regional peace, security and stability. The possession of nuclear weapons by states outside the NPT and non-compliance with the Treaty's provisions by States Parties to the Treaty

* *Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

undermines non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. Furthermore, the EU in its bilateral contacts with non-NPT States repeatedly stresses the need for them to pledge commitments to non-proliferation and disarmament and to join the NPT as non-nuclear weapon states.

7. Over the last years the EU has therefore consistently advocated the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and other relevant resolutions on the Middle East adopted by the UN Security Council, the General Assembly and the IAEA.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Today, we again reiterate their message and, inter alia, call upon all States in the region which have not yet done so to accede to the NPT, the biological and chemical weapons conventions and to place all their nuclear facilities under IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and to apply the Additional Protocol.
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. In that regard, 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 zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including their means of delivery.
10. The EU welcomes all initiatives that contribute towards achieving the goal and other provisions of the relevant resolutions on the Middle East. In this context we would like to emphasize the importance of the peace process in the Middle East in promoting mutual confidence and security in the region. The operative paragraph 1 of the 1995 NPT Middle East Resolution is quite clear on this point.
11. In the 1995 Barcelona Declaration, the EU and its Mediterranean Partners also agreed to pursue an effectively verifiable Middle East Zone free of WMD and their delivery systems. In 2008, the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean confirmed the EU's readiness to consider and work out practical steps to prepare the proper ground

for full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the creation of such a zone. Such practical steps were examined during the EU Seminar on 'Middle East Security, WMD Non-Proliferation and Disarmament' in June 2008 in Paris.

12. In the EU's view, practical steps should promote adherence to and compliance with a combination of nuclear, chemical and biological non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament agreements, such as NPT, CWC and BWC. The ratification of the CTBT and the start of negotiations on an FMCT would be crucial steps in this context. Such steps could be an important regional confidence building measure with a view of an establishment of a verifiable zone free of WMD and their delivery systems.
13. The EU wants to continue and intensify the dialogue within the context of the Barcelona Process and the Mediterranean Union and explore the possibility to have focused and structured discussion on the criteria and technical requirements of the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.
14. The EU believes that such an objective could amongst other things be furthered through a follow-up seminar on 'Middle East Security, WMD Non-Proliferation and Disarmament' prior to the 2010 Review Conference with all parties concerned. Therefore, a new seminar could consider practical steps such as confidence building measures. These could consist of small scale projects in the scientific and civil society field where progress is possible as well as training seminars for diplomats and military and confidence building 'visits' in countries of the region.

Mr. Chairman,

15. We are of the opinion that such a seminar could also constitute an important preparatory step towards convening a future conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of WMD, when parties in the region believe it would be useful. For the credibility of such a conference it would be useful if all five nuclear weapon states are actively engaged as it is foreseen in the 1995 NPT Middle East Resolution. The EU is ready to play an active role in the process.

Thank you.