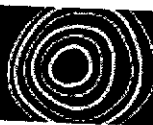


DANISH PRESIDENCY OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION

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PRESIDENCE DANOISE DE  
L'UNION EUROPEENNE

**FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**FIRST COMMITTEE**

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**Joint Ministerial Declaration in support of the CTBT**

**Declaration**

**By**

**H.E. Ambassador Erling Harild Nielsen  
on behalf of the European Union**

**NEW YORK  
October 25, 2002**

*Check against delivery*

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union – Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the associated countries – Cyprus, Malta and Turkey as well as the EFTA countries of the European Economic Area – Iceland and Norway align themselves with this statement.

Speaking on the occasion of the presentation to the Secretary General of the Joint Ministerial Declaration in support of the CTBT, I would like to reiterate the importance that the EU attaches to the early entry into force of the Treaty. As a sign of the strength of the EU commitment to this goal all EU Member States have associated themselves with the Declaration. The EU wishes to use this opportunity to call once more on all those States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT, without delay and without condition.