



The Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2005

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CFSP Statement

Declaration of the EU at the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC)

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Today marks the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC) on 26 March 1975. The BTWC was the first Convention to ban an entire class of weapons of mass destruction, and is a key component of the international non-proliferation and disarmament framework. The European Union (EU) considers the BTWC to be the cornerstone of our efforts to prevent biological agents and toxins from ever being developed and used as weapons.

Since 1975, some 154 States have become a party to the Convention, underlining the continued importance of the BTWC in addressing current day threats. We call on all States not yet party to the Convention to do so without delay. The EU will continue its diplomatic efforts to promote universal adherence to the BTWC.

The EU is committed to the full implementation of all the Convention's provisions. The EU fully supports, and continues to participate actively in, the current three-year work programme. We furthermore attach high priority to the reinforcement of the Convention and remain committed to developing measures to verify compliance with the BTWC. We look forward to the 6th Review Conference in 2006, which will be a good opportunity for all States Parties to review the operation of the Convention, to reiterate their commitment to the international norm against BW and to agree on measures to strengthen the BTWC, taking into account recent developments.

The EU welcomes further exchange of information and coordination with other international organisations to promote the aims of the Convention.

The EU furthermore recalls its commitment to implement its program aimed at protecting the EU population from the effects of attacks with, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons.

The EU calls on this occasion for the universal adherence to all international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, agreements and instruments.

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