

6 February 2007

Nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament - NPT prepcom, 30 April - 11 May 2007

There is an overwhelming consensus within the EU, including the European Parliament, on reviving and strengthening the NPT. For that reason it is vital that the EU prepares itself for the 2010 Review Conference by presenting a positive and visible contribution to the first Prepcom which will take place in Vienna from 30 April - 11 May, 2007.

What steps is the Council going to undertake to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to pursue effective multilateralism as stated in the December 2003 EU Strategy against the proliferation of materials and weapons of mass destruction?

Despite the failure of the 2005 NPT Review conference, what progress - if any - has been made to implement the 41 measures adopted in the EU Common Position on the NPT? What can be the particular role of the Council in implementing these measures?

What steps is the Council taking to prepare the Vienna NPT Prepcom? What new commitments does the Council hope to achieve?

What concrete disarmament objectives will the Council promote at the Prepcom, such as progress on the 13 steps agreed at the end of the 1995 (and confirmed in 2000) NPT Review conference; and in particular what can the Council do to break the deadlock on establishing a verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty?

Does the Council endorse the growing international consensus on the urgency of nuclear disarmament as promoted by the New Agenda Coalition, and various Nobel Prize winners? Does the Council agree with Dr Henry Kissinger that we are on the 'precipice of a new and dangerous nuclear era' and that the only way to prevent us falling over is by building a global consensus that reasserts the 'vision of a world free of nuclear weapons' and to work 'energetically' to that end?

Will the Council support the EU in the framework of EU-US relations to raise the issue of the US-India nuclear agreement and its consequences for the IAEA and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)?