



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 8 December 2008**

**16751/2/08  
REV 2 (en)**

**LIMITE**

**PESC 1633  
COSDP 1130**

**NOTE**

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from : Political and Security Committee  
to : COREPER/Council

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Subject: Statement on strengthening international security

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1. On 2 December 2008 the Political and Security Committee discussed and approved the statement on strengthening international security which is annexed hereto.
2. COREPER is accordingly requested to endorse the statement and forward it to the Council for adoption on 8 December 2008.

### Statement on strengthening international security

1. This statement gives further details of some of the principles and objectives set out in the European Security Strategy and the report on its implementation, with particular reference to counter-terrorism, drug trafficking, proliferation and disarmament.
2. It is our duty to mobilise all EU instruments effectively, to address the complexity of current crises, in particular through crisis prevention and management and post-conflict stabilisation. In addition to this contribution to security and development, Europe also has to face up to new threats to its security and to its values of democracy and liberty. These new threats are more diverse, less visible and less predictable. The EU has to provide credible responses to these threats, whatever their source, whatever their form, through prevention, deterrence and response, in close coordination with its principal partners in the world and with the relevant international organisations, in particular the United Nations, which has global responsibility for peace and security.
3. We have an unremitting determination to combat all manifestations of **terrorism**, in particular the threat posed by international terrorist organisations. We shall pursue this aim, with due regard for human rights, international humanitarian law and the right of asylum, by building a Europe safe from terrorism, cooperating on criminal matters and sharing information between European authorities more effectively. We shall upgrade our tools for the prevention and early detection of radicalisation and recruitment. We also need closer cooperation between the Member States of the EU on the prevention of terrorist financing.
4. We shall focus on use of the Internet by terrorist networks, through improved sharing of national information on the subject, through developing a European alert platform and through the amended version of the Framework Decision on combating terrorism, which is to make recruitment and incitement to terrorism via the Internet a criminal offence.
5. We shall together with our partners step up cooperation on counter-terrorism, in particular with those parts of the world which are afflicted by terrorism and radicalisation (North Africa, South Asia and, in the longer term, the horn of Africa) and particularly with Pakistan and

Afghanistan, for example along the lines of our thinking on how to cooperate with the countries of the Sahel, which are facing an increased terrorist threat which directly threatens EU interests.

6. We are united in our determination to combat the **proliferation** of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The EU acknowledges that major proliferation challenges have arisen in recent years and stresses that the international community must be ready to face up to them and to tackle them resolutely in future years. We shall step up the implementation of our 2003 strategy, which clearly sets out our commitment in this field.

7. We shall be firm in our response to proliferation crises. A negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue is of cardinal importance for the EU, since if Iran were to acquire a military nuclear capability, this would constitute an unacceptable threat to our security, both regional and international. In order to achieve such a solution, we shall continue to engage in dialogue and additional measures to increase pressure on Iran will have to be considered should it fail to comply with the urgent requests of the United Nations Security Council.

8. If it is to be effective, our action against proliferation must also be based on resolute operational cooperation to obstruct illicit transfers, control exports even more effectively, counter illegal networks, take punitive action against proliferation financing and reduce the risk of a link-up between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The new lines for EU action to combat proliferation will be implemented without delay. They will boost the effectiveness of the EU's 2003 strategy.

9. Strengthening the non-proliferation régime is a top priority for us; we shall continue our efforts with a view to the universalisation and effective implementation of non-proliferation rules and instruments, in particular through improving means of verification. It is important that the development of nuclear energy for peaceful uses takes place in the best safety, security and nonproliferation conditions.. International efforts aimed at establishing multilateral mechanisms, by helping to strengthen energy security, can also offer a credible alternative to the development of national capabilities for sensitive fuel cycle technologies. We have taken specific measures along these lines, with our announcement that the European Union stands ready to contribute financially up to EUR 25 million to the creation of a nuclear fuel bank under the control of the IAEA as soon as institutional procedures have been achieved.

10. Europe's security also benefits from continued global **disarmament** efforts. We welcome the nuclear disarmament measures taken by the two EU nuclear-weapon states and their initiatives in this field. We call on the international community to work to promote the concrete and realistic disarmament initiatives which the EU submitted at the United Nations General Assembly: universal ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, completion of its verification regime and the dismantling as soon as possible of all nuclear testing facilities in a manner that is transparent and open to the international community; the opening without delay and without preconditions of negotiations for a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and the introduction of an immediate moratorium on the production of such material; establishment of confidence and transparency measures by the nuclear powers; further progress in the current discussions between the United States and Russia on the development of a legally binding post-START arrangement, and an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, in particular by the states which possess the largest arsenals; inclusion of tactical nuclear weapons, by those states which have them, in their general arms control and disarmament processes, with a view to their reduction and elimination; start of consultations on a treaty banning short- and intermediate-range ground-to-ground missiles; accession to and implementation by all of the Hague Code of Conduct; and mobilisation in all other areas of disarmament.

11. We call more than ever for universal accession to and full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Bacteriological Weapons Convention. In particular, the risk that terrorist organisations might acquire chemical and/or biological weapons and systems for delivering them represents a serious threat to international security. We reaffirm the EU's political and financial support for chemical and biological disarmament through, amongst other things, the EU Joint Actions adopted in support of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, for the destruction of chemical weapons in Russia, in support of the Bacteriological Weapons Convention and of the World Health Organisation, which were developed under the 2003 Strategy.

12. On **conventional disarmament**, the EU supports the objective of banning cluster weapons that cause unacceptable harm to civilians and is ready to contribute to it. The EU reaffirms its deep concern at the grave humanitarian consequences of the use of cluster weapons against civilians. The vast majority of Member States signed the Oslo Convention on 3 December, but the largest military powers have not yet acceded to the convention. The EU plays a driving role in promoting the speedy adoption of a protocol on these weapons in the CCW forum.

13. We shall continue to combat the destabilising effects of illegal trade in and excessive concentration of conventional weapons. We welcome the adoption, by a very large majority, of the UN General Assembly Resolution on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We have adopted practical measures against the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons, especially trafficking by air. We welcome the decision to include an article on small arms and light weapons in all agreements with third countries which have a political and security dimension. The adoption in the form of a common position of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, which has proved its worth since it was introduced in 1998, would constitute significant progress.

14. **Security of outer space activities**, maintaining access to space and the need for surveillance and early-warning capabilities are priority issues for Europe. We call on our partners to support our draft Code of Conduct for outer space activities, which proposes transparency and confidence-building measures to increase the security of activities in outer space. We shall be continuing our consultations with our partners on this important issue.

15. **Drug trafficking** networks have many links, especially with terrorist networks, making it ever more important for us to stop drugs being brought into Europe. We welcome the establishment of the Anti-Drug Coordination Centre for the Mediterranean, along the lines of the existing centre for the Atlantic, which will make it easier to coordinate our efforts to combat the phenomenon. In cooperation with our partners, we shall continue to step up our efforts to stop the diversion of precursors, especially to Afghanistan.

16. **Piracy** constitutes a growing threat to the interests of the international community. In response to acts of piracy off the coast of Somalia and pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1816, the European Union has decided to launch operation ATALANTA to help deter, prevent and punish acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast and to protect WFP vessels and other vulnerable shipping.

17. In recent years, a number of EU countries have been faced with serious cyber-attacks and intrusions directed against public and private bodies. We are therefore pursuing our efforts to increase the protection and resilience of our networks, by increasing operational cooperation between Member States.

18. In conjunction with the report on the implementation of the European Security Strategy, this statement will enable the European Union better to address the challenges and threats which it will have to deal with in the coming years.

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