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Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008  
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008  
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

**Preparatory Committee for the  
2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the  
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons  
- Second Session -**

**Geneva, 28 April - 9 May 2008**

*Withdrawal from the Treaty*

**Statement by**

**H. E. Ambassador Andrej Logar  
Permanent Representative of Slovenia**

**on behalf of the European Union**

**Geneva, 7 May 2008**

*Check against delivery*

**Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on  
the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons  
- Second Session, Geneva, 28 April - 9 May 2008 -**

Withdrawal from the Treaty  
**EU Statement**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 27 Member States of the European Union.

*The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia\* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*<sup>1</sup>, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the EFTA country Norway as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this declaration.*

1. The EU is committed to the preservation of the integrity of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to the strengthening of its implementation. The authority of the NPT must be maintained. In our view the NPT represents a corner stone of international peace and stability. We listened very carefully to the arguments raised by some states during our debates underlining that one should not attempt to reinterpret Article X and the right to withdraw from the treaty enshrined therein. The proposals made by the EU respect the right set out in Article X and try to prepare for a common approach to finding an adequate response to such a possible withdrawal. While acknowledging that each State Party has a sovereign right to a withdrawal from the NPT, if it decides that extraordinary events related to the treaty have jeopardised the supreme interest of its country, we believe that a withdrawal could constitute a serious threat to international peace and security.
2. In 2005 the EU drew attention to the potential implications for international peace and security of withdrawal from the NPT with the introduction of a Working Paper. The 2005 Review Conference discussed intensively the issue of withdrawal. The contributions and discussions during the NPT Review Conference proved to be useful and a consensual outcome was not far away. The European Union is of the opinion that the present Review Process which is leading up to the 2010 Conference should therefore build upon this discussion. We welcome the start of the debate and the fact that a number of working papers have been presented. The EU will spare no effort to contribute to a common approach on this issue.
3. The EU believes that legal requirements as set out in Article X and the implications of a withdrawal should be clarified and that an understanding of all States Parties should be reached on appropriate actions in case of an announced withdrawal from the Treaty.
4. The EU Working Paper NPT/CONF.2010/PC.I/WP.25 presented during the first Session of the 2010 PrepCom in May last year spells out the different roles of interested parties and depositories of the Treaty in the event of a possible withdrawal and underlines the central role of the Security Council as the final arbiter in maintaining international peace and security. Any withdrawal notification under Article X, paragraph 1, should in our view prompt the Security Council to consider this issue and its implications as a matter of urgency, including examination of the cause for the withdrawal.

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<sup>1</sup> \* *Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

5. In cases where a withdrawal of a State Party from the NPT can finally not be avoided, the State Party concerned should, as a matter of principle, remain internationally liable for any violations of the NPT committed prior to its withdrawal. All nuclear facilities, equipment and technologies, acquired or developed for peaceful purposes, of a State Party to the NPT should remain, in that case, restricted to peaceful uses only and as a consequence have to remain subject to IAEA safeguards.

6. That is why we will continue to reiterate the principles as outlined in the EU Working Paper and urge, during this Review Cycle, the adoption of measures to preserve the integrity of the membership of the Treaty and to deal with withdrawal from it.

7. The EU would like to invite once again all States Parties to participate actively in this discussion to prepare possible decisions at the 2010 Review Conference. Such decisions would in our view constitute an important step forward towards the implementation of goals enshrined in the NPT.

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