

**Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty
Review Conference
Third session
New York, 4 - 15 May, 2009**

Other provisions of the Treaty, including Article X

Statement

on behalf of the European Union

by

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(Check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman

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

1. During the 2005 Review Conference and throughout this whole review cycle, the issue of Treaty withdrawal has been repeatedly raised by numerous States parties in the course of discussions and with the tabling of working papers. It is in particular the case of the EU.
2. This entire corpus of material and developed approaches has provided us with a broad scope of possible ways and means to address this crucial issue in all its possible consequences. We believe that, as is the case with other issues, the 2010 review conference is the right time for NPT States parties to act in making the necessary decisions to deal with the consequences of withdrawal.
3. For the record, Mr. Chairman, I would like to briefly recall the main aspects of the EU's approach to this issue, which are all detailed in the working document distributed at the 2007 PrepCom under reference NPT/CONF.2010/PC.I/WP.25.
4. First of all, it is not our intention to question the sovereign right of any State party to withdraw from the Treaty, but rather to provide us with a framework enabling us to manage the consequences of such a decision, should it be taken by any State party. We believe that a withdrawal could constitute a serious threat to international peace and security.
 - The second element of our thinking consists of laying out a methodology intended for the depositaries and the Security Council to be able to act quickly and take due account of all elements of the particular situation at stake. Any withdrawal notification under Article X paragraph 1, should prompt the Security Council to consider this issue and its implications as a matter of urgency, including examination of the cause for the withdrawal, which according to the requirements of Article X has to be: "extraordinary events related to the subject matter of the Treaty".
 - Lastly, the issue of the management of the implications of a possible withdrawal is certainly one on which it is crucial that next year's Review Conference is in a position to play a constructive and significant role. We must make sure that the international community is able to appropriately address all aspects of such a decision. States should remain internationally liable for violations of the NPT committed prior to a withdrawal. It must be made sure that all nuclear materials, equipment, technologies and facilities of a State party to the NPT acquired or developed for peaceful purposes remain restricted to peaceful uses only and, as a consequence, remain subject to IAEA safeguards.
5. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.