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**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

Statement by

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

on behalf of the European Union

Geneva, 30 April 2008

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Cluster I

EU Statement

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Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*¹, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this declaration.
2. The EU is committed to the preservation of the integrity and the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction agreed by our Heads of State and Government in December 2003 clearly sets out our commitment to these obligations. Integral to this strategy is our conviction that a multilateralist approach to security, including disarmament and non-proliferation provides the best way to maintain international order. Multilateralism is based on the concept of shared commitments and obligations and we must ensure that these commitments are respected and all obligations are complied with, within the NPT framework by all States Parties. The NPT can only fulfil its role if we are confident of the compliance of all States Parties with the obligations of the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The EU recalls that the NPT is based on three mutually reinforcing pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The EU believes that the prevention of nuclear proliferation as stated in Article I and Article II of the NPT and the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT are essential for global peace and security. This also holds true for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in

¹ * *Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

accordance with all provisions of the Treaty. We are therefore firmly committed to the objective of strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime as underlined in the EU Common Position of 25 April 2005, by which we stand. The EU continues to support the decisions and resolution adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference and shall bear in mind the current situation.

4. The EU is committed to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the final objective enshrined in Article VI of the NPT and welcomes the reduction of strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons and their delivery systems since the end of the Cold War, including significant reductions by two EU member States. Moreover, it stresses the need for an overall reduction of the global stockpiles of nuclear weapons, in particular by those with the largest arsenals, while acknowledging the considerable nuclear arms reductions which have taken place since the end of the Cold War, in particular by two EU Member States. In this context, we recognise the application of the principle of irreversibility to guide all measures in the field of nuclear disarmament and arms control, as a contribution to the maintenance and reinforcement of international peace, security and stability, taking these conditions into account. We are pursuing efforts to secure transparency as a voluntary confidence building measure and encourage all States possessing nuclear weapons to agree and implement further transparency measures. The EU welcomes the increased transparency on current nuclear weapons holdings recently shown by some nuclear weapon States.
5. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which reduced US and Russian strategic nuclear weapons arsenal to 6,000 accountable warheads, is due to expire in 2009. We note that the US-Russia Moscow Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions, which limits each side to no more than 1,700 - 2,200 operationally deployed strategic nuclear warheads, will expire on 31 December 2012. While welcoming the reductions in deployed nuclear weapons which START and the Moscow Treaty have brought about, the European Union stresses the need for more progress in structurally reducing these nuclear arsenals through appropriate follow-on processes. In this regard the EU is encouraged by the ongoing discussions between the United States and the Russian Federation on the development of a post-START arrangement, and particularly welcomed the recent announcement following the Sochi meeting that they will work towards a legally binding agreement.
6. The issue of non-strategic nuclear weapons was included in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference. Reductions in these weapons are an integral part of the nuclear arms control and disarmament process. We encourage states concerned to start negotiations on an effectively verifiable agreement to best achieve the greatest possible reductions in these weapons.

7. The EU stresses the need for general disarmament. Non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control remain indispensable elements of cooperative security between states.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The EU recognises the importance, from the point of view of nuclear disarmament, of the programmes for destruction and elimination of nuclear weapons and of fissile material as defined under the G8 Global Partnership. The EU recalls that EU Member States and the European Community participate in this effort which entails, *inter alia*, the de-activation of thousands of nuclear warheads and efforts to convert military stockpiles of fissile material into a physical state which can no longer be used in nuclear weapons.
9. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The EU believes that a legally binding prohibition of nuclear weapons test explosions and all other nuclear explosions as well as a credible verification regime, are vital.

A new momentum towards the entry into force of the CTBT can now be sensed. We therefore reiterate our call on States, particularly those listed in Annex II, to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay and without conditions and, pending its entry into force, to abide by a moratorium on nuclear testing and to refrain from any action contrary to the obligations and provisions of the CTBT. We also welcome the recent ratifications by Colombia, Malaysia, Barbados, Bahamas, Dominican Republic and Palau. The EU urges all States to dismantle all their nuclear testing sites in a manner that is transparent and open to the international community.

The 10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the CTBT in 2006 as well as the occurrence of nuclear tests after that underlines the need to redouble our efforts to complete the outstanding ratifications required for the Treaty to enter into force. In this regard, we would like to commend the recent ratifications as they give a strong signal to the nine States which still need to ratify the Treaty for it to enter into force. The EU calls upon all states which have signed and ratified the CTBT to pay their contributions to the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO in time.

The EU would also like to express its high appreciation for the substantial work of the CTBT Organisation Preparatory Commission. We will also continue to actively support the work of Special Representative Ambassador Ramaker to promote universal accession.

10. We would like to underline the importance the EU attaches to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral forum available to the international community for disarmament negotiations. The EU has been working constructively for several years towards the adoption of a programme of work. We are also striving for and will spare no efforts to revitalise this unique forum here in Geneva in order to facilitate the start of work. The European Union is satisfied with the maintaining of the six presidencies platform formula (P6) adopted in 2006 and 2007 and retained in the 2008 session and declares its full support to it. We further expect that the formula will be used also in the future. The EU attaches a clear priority and great importance to the negotiation without pre-conditions in the Conference on Disarmament, of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices (FMCT), as a means to strengthen disarmament and non-proliferation. The EU appeals to all delegations in the Conference on Disarmament to work towards achieving a consensus on a programme of work that would enable the Conference to start as soon as possible the negotiation of an FMCT.

11. As part of its Weapons of Mass Destruction Strategy, the European Union will promote a stable international and regional environment and address the root causes of instability. The EU will play its part in addressing the problems of regional insecurity and the situations of conflict, which lie behind many weapons programmes. We recognise that instability does not occur in a vacuum and we are committed to fostering regional security arrangements and regional disarmament and arms control processes.

The EU reaffirms its full and unequivocal support for efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, which would significantly contribute to global non-proliferation efforts, and to realize the objective of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, including their means of delivery.

12. The EU recognizes the continuing high value of the existing legally binding security assurances to non-nuclear weapon States Parties to the NPT on the use of or threat of use of nuclear weapons, provided for by the protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear weapons free zones and unilateral declarations of nuclear weapons States, noted by UNSC Resolution 984/1995 and reaffirmed at the sixth NPT Review Conference. Positive and negative assurances can play an important role in the NPT regime and can serve as an incentive to forego the acquisition of WMD. We are committed to promote further consideration of security assurances.

Mr. Chairman

13. The European Union hopes that this second Session of the Preparatory Committee will help to build on the foundations laid in Vienna for a successful Review Cycle. We must pay due consideration to all aspects of the implementation of the Treaty - disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use. In particular, non-proliferation and disarmament are mutually reinforcing. The EU will continue to encourage the progress made towards systematic and progressive efforts towards disarmament, and will remain fully committed to the effective implementation of Article VI of the NPT.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.
