



**Statement on behalf of the European Union**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. Jacek NAJDER  
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**at**

**The Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

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**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland<sup>1</sup>, the Countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, San Marino and Andorra align themselves with this declaration.

The European Union would like to congratulate you, Co-Presidents, on your election to the Presidency of the Seventh Article XIV Conference. I would like to assure you that you can count on European Union's full support in fulfilment of your important mandate. We would also like to express our great appreciation for the work carried out by France and Morocco as previous Article XIV coordinators. Furthermore, the European Union wants to express its gratitude to you, Mr. Secretary General, for convening this Conference, and thank all the Ministers for being present here today.

Your Excellency Mr. Secretary General,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Ambassadors,  
Distinguished Guests,

The outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference as well as the ratification by the United States and the Russian Federation of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty illustrate renewed momentum in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The European Union has been encouraged by these important developments.

Entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a major objective on the multilateral agenda. It remains a strategic priority for the EU as an essential element of advancing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Therefore the European Union has adopted the Statement on Entry-into-Force of the CTBT, which I would like now to refer to:

Distinguished Co-Presidents – Minister Espinoza and Minister Bildt  
Fellow Delegates,

„This month marks 15 years since the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which plays an essential role within the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Since that time 182 countries have signed this treaty, with 155 of these having ratified, underlining strong ongoing international support for this treaty and its goals. The EU will continue to offer its strongest political and practical support, both for the universalisation of the CTBT and the credibility of its verification regime.

The CTBT's entry into force will greatly strengthen the international security architecture. By ending all nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions, by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, the CTBT constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects.

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<sup>1</sup> Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process. Iceland remains an EFTA country and member of the European Economic Area.

In this context, the EU reaffirms the vital importance of the early entry into force of the CTBT as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We therefore call on all those States who have yet to do so to sign and ratify the CTBT with all expediency, in particular the remaining 9 Annex 2 States, whose ratification is essential for the Treaty's entry into force.

Only the CTBT offers the global community the prospect of a permanent and legally binding commitment to the universal prohibition of nuclear test explosions. The EU stresses that moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions and any other nuclear test explosions must be maintained, pending the entry into force of the CTBT. In this context, and given its overwhelming international support, the CTBT sets a global norm against any kind of nuclear explosion, enabling the EU and the rest of the international community to respond immediately to any challenges to this norm.

We further call on all States to refrain from any action that would defeat the object and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty pending its entry into force.

A crucial element of the CTBT is its provision for an international monitoring system, which serves as an effective, reliable, participatory and non-discriminatory verification system with global reach, and can provide assurance of compliance with the Treaty. We strongly commend the progress achieved in the build-up of this verification regime of the CTBT, and encourage the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) to continue working towards the early completion and provisional operation of the international monitoring system. The EU notes the system's value not only in meeting the mandate of the CTBTO to ensure effective verification of compliance with the Treaty, but also in other applications, such as in support of tsunami warning or to monitor emissions from radiological accidents."

Distinguished Co-Presidents  
Fellow Delegates,

Just yesterday the Secretary-General hosted a high level meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security with the aim to re-evaluate nuclear risks and nuclear safety in response to nuclear disasters. The dual relevance of CTBTO in this field is unquestionable. The disastrous earthquake that hit Japan on 11 March 2011 and the nuclear accident that followed in Fukushima demonstrated the civil benefits of the Treaty's International Monitoring System in assisting in the international response to such situations.

In concluding,  
Distinguished Co-Presidents

The European Union shares the view that it is a critical time for the Treaty. We need to act now in support of the CTBT's entry into force in order to take advantage of the strong political support and reinvigoration of the global efforts in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The EU calls on all States present here today to work together to achieve rapid entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and thereby strengthen the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.