

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N° 609
Spanish Presidency of the European Union**Vienna 28 April 2010****EU Statement in response to Mr. Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO**

The European Union warmly welcomes Mr. Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom) for the Comprehensive Nuclear - Test - Ban Treaty Organization and thanks him for his thorough presentation on the work of the Commission.

His presence here today, in the framework of the Security Dialogue, shows our determination to make full use of this instrument for regular and substantial exchanges of information on the work done and the progress made concerning separate arms control negotiations and processes.

The EU recognises the role of the CTBT as one of the essential pillars in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation framework. Its entry into force will significantly strengthen the international security architecture built upon the foundation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

All the Member States of the European Union and indeed all the countries of the European continent have demonstrated their commitment to the CTBT by signing and ratifying the Treaty. Since the CTBT has been opened for signature in 1996, 182 countries

have signed and 151 have ratified the Treaty. In this regard the CTBT, although not yet in force, has reached one of the widest support among the existing arms control Treaties.

Pending its entry into force, the EU welcomes the moratorium on nuclear tests voluntarily observed by States that have not yet ratified the Treaty and calls on all States to comply with such a moratorium.

The EU appeals to the States that have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty to do so without further delay, and in particular to the States listed in its Annex 2 whose ratification is required for its entry into force. The EU is committed to working bilaterally and multilaterally together with all ratifiers to persuade those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty of its essential role in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Our commitment to a multilateral approach as the best way to counter the threat of nuclear weapons was underlined in the European Union's Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The EU thanks the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission, as well as the Provisional Technical Secretariat that he leads, for the progress achieved in fulfilling the mandate of the Commission to prepare for the effective implementation of the Treaty. Although much remains to be done, under his leadership important progress has been made, in particular in upgrading the CTBTO verification capabilities.

The CTBTO PrepCom and the OSCE share the same commitment to multilateralism in dealing with Security issues. We appreciate the contribution of the CTBTO as a confidence building measure for the

whole European continent. We hope that soon other regions of the World will follow the example of Europe in ratifying unanimously the Treaty.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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