



Spanish Presidency of the European Union

OSCE Joint FSC-PC Nº 44 Vienna 1 June 2010

EU Statement on the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty

The European Union warmly welcomes Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller from the United States and Director Anatoly Antonov from the Russian Federation to this Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) and the Permanent Council. We thank them for attending this gathering and for their very relevant presentations. We also thank the Delegations of the United States and Russia, as well as the Chair of the FSC and the Chairman in Office for making this meeting possible.

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy already congratulated the United States and Russia for concluding the negotiations of the new START Treaty. We join her in congratulating both States for achieving a historic breakthrough in the field of Arms Control and Non Proliferation.

As the High Representative also stated, “by reducing the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads and delivery systems, by establishing a strong verification mechanism and setting the stage

for further reductions, this treaty represents a remarkable progress in the fulfilment of the disarmament obligations of the parties. It enhances the security of the contracting parties and of the international community as a whole”.

The EU counts on the early ratification of the new START Treaty. We encourage both States concerned to work towards new agreements for further, comprehensive reductions of their nuclear arsenals, including non-strategic nuclear weapons.

This signature was followed by a very important and unprecedented meeting, the Nuclear Security Summit, that took place in Washington on the 12th and 13th of April; this meeting raised the positive momentum in favour of a strengthened global non proliferation regime.

The recent successful conclusion of the Review Conference of the State Parties to the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reminds us of our commitment to seeking a safer world for all and encourages us to redouble our efforts to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons. The EU High Representative has warmly welcomed the consensus reached on the final document, that shows that the multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament regime is alive and supported by all and that all states party are committed not only to uphold, but also to strengthen it in order to meet all the existing challenges.

We note with satisfaction that global arms control and disarmament is being reinvigorated amidst a renewed public debate and we are

confident that this political momentum will also benefit our joint work in the context of European Security.

The Corfu Process is a very serious attempt to recover trust and confidence and recapture a sense of common purpose to achieve the vision of a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE Area, free of dividing lines and zones with different levels of security.

Non Proliferation is one of the areas where OSCE can play a significant role, in particular concerning the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540; we are encouraged by the adoption last year of UNSCR 1887 on Maintenance of international peace and security: Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, as well as of the OSCE Athens Ministerial Declaration on Non Proliferation. We welcome the US, Belgian and Italian Food for Thought paper on OSCE Next Steps on UNSCR 1540 and other non proliferation issues, as well as other initiatives to reinforce the role of OSCE in this area.

Conventional Arms Control and Confidence and Security Building Measures remain a key component of our comprehensive notion of European Security. We need to build on our unique network of treaties, commitments, decisions, norms and measures, in particular the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Treaty on Open Skies and the Vienna Document 1999. These instruments are intertwined and form a web of interlocking and mutually reinforcing instruments, as stated by the 1996 Framework for Arms Control.

The EU considers that we must intensify our joint work to seize the opportunities offered by this positive strategic global background in order to achieve real progress in the shortest possible time in these areas. We are ready to continue working actively and constructively with all delegations to this end.

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 and ARMENIA align themselves with this statement.