

“A Critical Juncture for Non-proliferation and Disarmament”



Message from High Representative Josep Borrell to the Eighth EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference - Brussels, 13 December 2019

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Brussels to the Eighth Annual EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Conference.

Diplomats, policy makers, civil society, industry, and academics from around the world are here today to tackle some of the most complex challenges of our times. Today you are not simply discussing non-proliferation and disarmament issues. You are here to discuss about our future: the fate of global security. I very much regret not being able to attend in person. I want to welcome the participation of civil society, in particular the EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Consortium of think tanks. Thank you for organising this event. But, above all, thank you for your tireless work in promoting research and dialogue on these important issues.

We live in a dangerous world. This will not come as a surprise to you. Looking at the wider geo-strategic picture, we see the rebirth of geo-strategic competition. This affects different regions and mobilises powerful regional actors. Today's challenges affect us all irrespective of our location.

We are seeing a step back in some of the greatest accomplishments in global non-proliferation and disarmament after the cold war. If we forget our past, we are doomed to repeat the same mistakes. We must avoid entering into a new arms race which would endanger the peaceful future of our continent.

Non-proliferation and disarmament are at a critical juncture. Multilateralism as a whole is under threat. The European Union strongly believes in a rules-based world order, where States and institutions address global challenges together, but also resolve their differences. In the coming year, the EU will particularly focus on promoting a successful outcome of the 2020 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. On its 50th anniversary, we must celebrate and reinforce the NPT as a key multilateral instrument for international peace, security and stability. The EU strongly supports all three pillars of the NPT: disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. All States Parties have committed to pursuing policies that are fully compatible with the Treaty and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. Our non-proliferation efforts in relation to Iran will continue to be key in this context.

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty has been an important component of European security architecture. Its disappearance creates a dangerous security void. It also highlights that intermediate-range nuclear missiles are a threat way beyond Europe. The EU is ready to support international efforts aimed at developing confidence-building measures that will help avoid escalation and further proliferation.

The well-established norm against chemical weapons is being tested. We must be firm that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, be it a State or a non-State actor, under any circumstances is unacceptable and violates international law and norms. There can be no impunity, those responsible need to be brought to justice.

Finally, we should not forget that it is conventional weapons that claim most victims in today's conflicts. For this reason, the EU is stepping up its efforts to prevent the trafficking of small arms and light weapons, and to achieve a mine-free world for future generations. We should never forget the human face of security. Further initiatives and processes at international and regional levels to restore dialogue and trust and promote transparency and confidence-building measures are crucial and deserve our support.

In all these areas, dialogue with our global partners is essential. This is what makes gatherings such as this conference so important. We must collectively speak the language of both our interests and of our values. I call upon all of you to demonstrate persistence and creativity in strengthening the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. We owe this to future generations to leave to them a more secure and stable world.

I wish you a fruitful and open discussion, with the collective aim to increase international security, ensure non-proliferation, and promote disarmament.



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The EUNPD Next- Generation Workshop

The EUNPD Next Generation Workshop was held on 12 December 2019, at the margins of the EUNPD Conference. 13 young professionals, from 12 different countries, were selected from over 100 applications to discuss pressing issues related to non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control, including emerging technologies, the illicit traffic of conventional weapons and regional challenges.

[Workshop Agenda](#)

Resources

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Network Calls

10th NUCLEAR HISTORY BOOT CAMP

Applications are now open for the 10th NHBC, an intensive 10-day immersion course in the history of nuclear matters. The course will be held in Allumiere (Rome), Italy, 27 Jun - 07 July 2020

Eligibility:

- Students enrolled in a Ph.D program in international relations, history, political science and related fields, and who are working towards or considering a thesis on nuclear matters
- Applicants who have completed their M.A. degree and are considering a Ph.D. in nuclear matters

Participants will receive full tuition, a round-trip airfare to Rome, as well as accommodations and meals.

Applications deadlines:

- January 31st, 2020

For further information please contact nuclearbootcamp@uniroma3.it or visit <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/nuclear-history-boot-camp>

EU NEWS

The EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference

The Eighth EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Conference took place on 13-14 December 2019 in Brussels, gathering high-level speakers from public institutions, international organisations and civil society. The Conference, organised by the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) on behalf of the EU Consortium of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks has been, since 2012, one of the key non-proliferation and disarmament events worldwide.

The conference addressed several key issues, notably preserving the norms against the use of landmines; regulating the trade of conventional weapons; nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament; arms control in outer space; and cyber security challenges. Special sessions were devoted also to regional and horizontal issues such as non-proliferation and disarmament in North-East Asia and in the Middle East, and the implementation of the EU's non-proliferation and disarmament agenda.

The conference was attended by over 230 experts from over 50 countries and 100 think tanks from all over the world. The Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, *Josep Borrell*, sent an opening message (see page 1). Speakers included, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, *Izumi Nakamitsu*, US Assistant Secretary of State, *Christopher Ford*, Russian Ambassador to the International Organisations in Vienna, *Mikhail Ulyanov*, and Chinese Deputy-Director General of the Department of Arms Control, *Ma Shengkun*, besides renowned academics, researchers and officials from around the world. A key-note speech was delivered by the President of the Fourth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, *Hans Brattskar*.

The EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Conference demonstrated once again the EU's strong commitment and support for multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament as well as the rules-based order.

For more information about the Conference: [Conference Agenda - EUNPDC Website](#)

NETWORK NEWS

The EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium Holds an Ad Hoc meeting on “Security, Safety, Sustainability: Promoting Good Behaviour in Outer Space”

On 9 December 2019, the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium organized an Ad Hoc Seminar in Brussels (Centre Borschette) to promote Security, Safety, Sustainability in Outer space. The objective of the one-day event was to exchange views and information on national, regional and global initiatives to promote the preservation of a safe, secure and sustainable space environment and the peaceful use of outer space on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis, with a view to establishing a voluntary instrument to set standards of responsible behaviour across the full range of space activities and related challenges. The seminar focused on the legal and political environment, national policies and international implications, knowledge and monitoring of the Space environment, as well as challenges and opportunities for future international regulation.

Carine Claeys, EU Special Envoy for Space, stressed that the EU and its member states continuously promote the preservation of a safe, secure and sustainable space environment and the peaceful use of outer space on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis. Claeys also underlined that the European External Action Service had launched a public diplomacy initiative in September 2019 in Paris targeting international policy-makers, industry, think-tanks, academia, space agencies and the scientific community to raise awareness and build a common understanding on the need to act swiftly and jointly for a sustainable outer space.

The issue of a global regulation of outer space needs to be addressed urgently through a multilateral negotiation process involving all relevant actors, including private space operators, which have a growing stake in the sector.

Benjamin Hautecouverture
Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégic (FRS)/EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium