

## Promoting Non-Proliferation and Disarmament: Interview with Sibylle Bauer



Sibylle Bauer is Director of Studies, Armament and Disarmament at SIPRI. She is also the Chair of the EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Consortium. In her previous position as Director of SIPRI's Dual-use and Arms Trade Control programme, she designed and implemented export control capacity-building activities in Europe and South East Asia. Before joining SIPRI in 2003, Dr. Bauer was a Researcher at the Institute for European Studies, Free University of Brussels (Université libre de Bruxelles, ULB). She holds a joint PhD from ULB and the Free University of Berlin.

SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research on conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. What are the main challenges in conducting research in these fields?

Unfortunately, these issues are just as timely today as they were when SIPRI was established in 1966! One challenge is to secure funding both to adjust the research agenda to constantly evolving challenges to peace and security and to maintain ongoing, long-established research on core issues. SIPRI publishes data on military spending, arms transfers, arms production and nuclear forces every year, which appears in news outlets around the globe. However, data sets are only useful if they are consistently maintained and updated, while topics trend in and out of fashion. Sweden, which values such data as a public good, has been essential to maintaining our mission.

Also, while we have global reach for both publications and events, I would like to make more of our publications available in different languages and thus to even broader audiences.

SIPRI has a diverse workforce, with almost 30 nationalities among current staff (and more when including associates). However, for some specialised areas of expertise and senior positions, the pool of applicants is not always as diverse as I wish. This illustrates a structural problem highlighting the need to actively promote the next generation (or 'now-generation'). This, in turn, requires not only investing in arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation education internationally, but also actively facilitating both career entry, retention and promotion. This entails aspects such as mentoring, but also very practical steps such as arranging work permits! It's crucial to do more than help get a foot in the door; the long-term success of colleagues in the field must be fostered.

You are the Chair of the Consortium of think tanks that coordinates and promotes the EUNPD Network established by the EU

Council in 2010. This month the EU Council extended the current cycle of activities of the EUNPD Network by another year. What are the major achievements and future plans of the Network and how has its work and role changed over the years?

The Network has grown not only in numbers (now at over 100) but in diversity in terms of academic disciplines and geography, and now includes a substantial number of university departments. It now comprises entities from all EU member states but also from six European countries outside the EU. Network members have also become increasingly involved in the various activities.

We have taken new initiatives to strengthen non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control education. We also started a whole package of new generation activities, which includes a component focusing particularly on young women to address the gender imbalances in the field. These are particularly striking in the higher echelons of research, in both academia and think tanks. However, the applications we received for the proliferation awareness course for IT and engineering students last year also reflected a gender imbalance already among students in certain fields. More broadly, we have also promoted the participation in the Network activities of the natural sciences, of which an ever-expanding range is relevant to peace and security.

We are also working hard to improve the gender and age balance at EUNPD activities organised by the Consortium, regarding authors, speakers, participants and those asking questions. Finally, the Council Decision includes the mandate to cooperate with research entities internationally, and I very much hope we can expand this engagement over the coming years. Going forward, we hope to strengthen each of these initiatives even further – there is enormous potential, and a lot of work ahead!

## THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT ADVOCACY

The international community has increasingly recognised the importance of women's participation in peace and security issues and the benefits of applying a gender perspective in policy development. The adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the emergence of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, have contributed to the growing international norm acknowledging the impacts of various weapons systems on gender and the need to engage women in policy decisions. However, work remains to be done to achieve the goals laid out in several international agreements ranging from the Arms Trade Treaty to the recently in force Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Efforts must continue to increase female representation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control fora and at negotiating tables where women are consistently underrepresented.

Though not always acknowledged, women have been engaged in disarmament efforts since the early 1900s when nearly 1200 women advocated for the end of WWI and for international disarmament. Throughout the twentieth century women's movements have made an impact on the disarmament discussion and even led to the removal of cruise missiles from the UK Greenham Common site.

In the European Union, gender is often incorporated in the EU's common foreign and security policy through the adoption of action plans, strategies and the inclusion of gender advisers and focal points. In 2015 a dedicated position, the EEAS Principal Advisor on Gender and UNSCR 1325, was created to strengthen and promote gender in all areas of peace and security.

However, work in this area risks becoming stagnant and achieving gender parity in this field remains a distant reality. In order to highlight the role of gender in disarmament, I have authored a new eLearning unit (produced by the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt) on the [EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament eLearning Course](#) funded by the European Union. In addition, the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) and the International Affairs Institute (IAI) have launched a [Young Women and Next Generation Initiative](#) to encourage young individuals, in particular women, to enter the field in pursuit of tackling widely perceived age and gender imbalances.

### Mara Zarka

Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)/EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium



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## Latest Publications

*Preparing for Success at the Ninth Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Review Conference*, James Revill, John Borrie, Richard Lennane, Emma Saunders, United Nations Institute For Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), 2021

*Europe's Defence of the Iran Nuclear Deal: Less than a Success, More than a Failure*, Riccardo Alcaro, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), 2021

*NATO's Role in Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Arms Control: A [Critical] History*, Leopoldo Nuti, Università Roma Tre, 2021

*The TPNW and the NPT*, Lina-Marieke Hilgert, Angela Kane, Anastasia Malygina, DeepCuts Issue Brief #15, 2021

## EU NEWS

### The EU Council decides to extend the work of the European Network of Independent Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Think Tanks

On 16 April 2021, the Council of the European Union adopted a new decision to promote the work of European think tanks in supporting the implementation of the 2003 EU Strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This is a new and important turning point along the path started in July 2010, when the Council decided to establish a Network of European foreign policy institutions and research centres with expertise on non-proliferation and arms control. After the 2014 and 2018 renewals, the new cycle has now been extended until 17 May 2022.

The decision is a further recognition of the important role that the Network – now bringing together more than 100 research entities – is playing in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament. Since its establishment the Network is promoted by a Consortium composed of six study centres: La Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS), the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (HSFK/ PRIF), the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP).

Since its inception, the Network's primary scope has been the promotion of political and security-related discussion with the substantial involvement of civil society, researchers and academics with the goal of identifying new ways of countering not only the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, but also conventional weapons including small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their delivery systems. Such ongoing engagement in awareness-raising and drafting of recommendations for the EU and major international fora will continue, based on the EU Council's decision, for another year.

For more information:

[Council Decision \(CFSP\) 2021/648 of 16 April 2021 promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks in support of the implementation of the EU Strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction](#)

## Consortium News

### THE NEXT GENERATION FOLLOW UP MEETING

On 13 April 2021, IAI and the VCDNP, with the support of the EUNPD Consortium, organised the *EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Next Generation Follow Up Meeting*.

The event followed the [EUNPD NextGen Workshops on non-proliferation and disarmament](#), an annual initiative that brings together outstanding young scholars, students and professionals to present fresh ideas and solutions to current non-proliferation and disarmament challenges.

The Follow Up Meeting was created to provide young scholars with a platform to continue the exchange of ideas and to network, particularly in a time where, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, there are fewer opportunities for the next generation to meet around the world and think together about the great challenges of our times.

More info: [here](#)

## NETWORK NEWS

### The EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Papers Series

As part of its mandate, defined in Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/299 of 26 February 2018, the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium is publishing a new series of Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Policy Papers. One of the latest papers is authored by Andrew Futter, Professor of International Politics at the University of Leicester, UK.

*Explaining the Nuclear Challenges Posed by Emerging and Disruptive Technology: A Primer for European Policymakers and Professionals*

#### Summary

This paper is a primer for those seeking to engage with current debates on nuclear risk in Europe. It demystifies and contextualizes the challenges posed by emerging and disruptive technologies in the nuclear realm. It looks in detail at five significant and potentially disruptive technological developments – hypersonic weapons, missile defence, artificial intelligence and automation, counterspace capabilities and computer network operations (cyber) – to highlight often-overlooked nuances and explain how some of the challenges presented by these developments are more marginal, established and manageable than is sometimes portrayed. By emphasising the primacy of politics over technology when it comes to meeting nuclear challenges, this paper also seeks to provide a basis for targeted risk reduction and arms control, as well as normative recommendations for policymakers and professionals working across Europe

Read the full paper [here](#)

Previous papers can be found [here](#)