

Trust Building and Innovation to Advance Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

Message from High Representative Josep Borrell to the Tenth EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference - *Excerpts*



“Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

[.] Let me express my gratitude to the EUNPD Consortium for organising this event, bringing together a variety of diplomats, academics, civil society representatives and others.

[.] The existing non-proliferation and disarmament multilateral framework has been carefully constructed over the past decades. It is a delicate framework, which requires constant maintenance and nourishment. It requires political trust building. And it requires innovation in order to keep up with new challenges.

[.] EU takes its responsibility seriously and invests political and human capital, as well as actual funding, in maintaining the multilateral framework for non-proliferation and disarmament. In all relevant meetings of treaty bodies, meetings of the UN disarmament fora, and of other regional security organisations, the EU speaks out in favour of its main principles. These include a multilateralist approach to security, including non-proliferation and disarmament, a strong support for verification and upholding the compliance of treaties, and a commitment to internationally coordinated export controls. The EU collaborates closely with like-minded partners who share these principles.

[.] The ongoing pandemic has shown very concretely how essential non-proliferation of biological weapons is for global peace and security. Biological incidents, whether they are of natural origin or manmade, accidental or deliberate, can completely disrupt our lives and create global havoc. The EU is therefore a long-standing supporter of strengthening biosafety and biosecurity globally through supporting the Biological Weapons Convention, which is the cornerstone of international efforts to prevent disease from ever being used as a weapon. At the upcoming Ninth Review Conference of the BWC, the EU will call for the strengthening of the Convention and its implementation.

[.] The EU remains one of the strongest supporters of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The OPCW, as an impartial organisation of professionals, needs to be able to conduct the necessary fact-finding missions and investigations. Politicising the OPCW and its work is in nobody’s interest, and in the end, undermines our globally agreed norm. The international community has the responsibility to ensure that justice takes its course, for the sake of the victims, and in order to strengthen global peace and security. Those who still use these horrific weapons must be held accountable.

Upholding and preserving the Non-Proliferation Treaty remains a key priority of EU foreign policy. The EU strongly supports all three pillars of the Treaty - non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We have been a proud supporter of regional conferences in preparation for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference next January. Through intensive diplomatic engagement backed up by EU funded projects, we are also promoting the various instruments of the NPD architecture.

[.] Discussions and further thought on the impact of new technologies on global peace and security are necessary. This why the EEAS, together with Member States, has engaged in a series of informal expert meetings on the topic. We will seriously need to consider how disarmament, arms control and export control mechanisms can be utilised to manage ever faster technological changes in the military domain that will affect warfare in the decades to come.

[.] The EU supports efforts to counter the diversion of arms, ensure safe stockpiling, and mainstream gender considerations in the design of new projects relating to the fight against gun violence and SALW control. Moreover, the EU has strict export controls in place. This includes increased transparency measures. The EU remains a staunch supporter of the UN Programme of Action and its International Tracing Instrument, and the Arms Trade Treaty, and actively promotes its universalisation and effective implementation.

[.] Natural and social scientists can warn us, they can help us identify new challenges, they can also come up with creative new solutions to help protect international peace and security. This is one of the reasons why the EU has supported for the past 10 years the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium, and its Network of currently over 100 associated European think tanks and universities. When we seek to prevent new arms races - whether they are nuclear, conventional, or involve new technologies - dialogue with our global partners is essential. Building trust is easier when looking each other in the eye directly, in real life. For now, we will have to make do with screens connecting us. The important thing is that we, diplomats from across the globe, experts, academics, researchers, remain connected. It is at meetings such as this one, where we can explore coinciding interests, brainstorm about challenges facing us all, and seek solutions for how to solve those.”

Full speech [here](#)



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EUNPD 2021 Conference

Opening Remarks by United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu

“High Representative Borrell, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,
It is a pleasure to once again have the opportunity to address this conference, although sadly not in person. The European Union is one of the longest and most dedicated supporters using disarmament and non-proliferation to pursue a safer and more secure world. Its Member States run the gamut from a nuclear-weapon State to the host of the first meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. That diversity continues to be a strength, allowing the EU to adopt considered, pragmatic but forward-looking positions”.

Full Statement: [here](#)

EUNPD 2021 Conference

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EU NEWS

The EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference

The Tenth EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Conference was held virtually on 06 - 07 December 2021. Organised by the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) on behalf of the EU Consortium of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks the Conference has been, since 2012, one of the key non-proliferation and disarmament events worldwide.

The conference addressed several pressing issues of the field, including ways to rebuilt mutual trust and credibility in arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament; ways to counter the proliferation of malicious cyber tool; the political side of arms trade control; and the implications of new technologies for arms control.

The conference was attended by over **430 experts** from over **67 different countries**, including experts and representatives from governments and international organizations and high-level speakers from public institutions, international organisations and civil society. Opened by a message from the Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, **Josep Borrell**, and remarks from United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, **Izumi Nakamitsu**, the Conference included keynote speeches from Amb. **Gustavo Zlauvinen**, President-designate of the 2020 Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and Dr. **Robert Floyd**, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). Further speakers included: **Philippe Bertoux**, Director for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, **Bonnie Jenkins**, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs, **Fu Cong**, Director-General, Department of Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, **Vladimir Leontiev**, Deputy Director of the Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, **Sarah Price**, Head of the Counter Proliferation and Arms Control Centre, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom, besides renowned academics, researchers and officials from around the world.

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.

NETWORK NEWS

The EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Next Generation Workshop

The EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Next Generation Workshop was held virtually on 15 December 2021. The event was organized by the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), on behalf of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium.

Eight young professionals were selected through a very competitive call to discuss pressing issues of the Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament field and present fresh ideas and views on how to address the field’s main challenges. Specifically, this year, the selected speakers presented on the following topics:

- The AUKUS Partnership’s effect on the Risk of a Nuclear in the Indo-Pacific Region
- The JCPOA in a triangle of Proliferation, Counter-Proliferation, and Non-Proliferation
- The Conventional Weapons Trade: Shortcomings of the EU Regulation
- 25 Years Since CTBT: Can the Stalemate be Resolved?
- Regulating Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)
- The Threat of Nuclearized Hypersonic Missiles
- The Impact of Hypersonic Glide Vehicles on Strategic Stability in the Euro-Atlantic Region

Presentations were followed by comments from other participants, including EU officials.

The Workshop brought together over **125 participants** from **38 different countries**, contributing significantly to the advancement of fresh thinking and news ideas on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

For more information:

[EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Next Generation Agenda – Workshop Website](#)

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