

# EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium

*Promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks*

JANUARY 2026, ISSUE 73

## Latest Publications

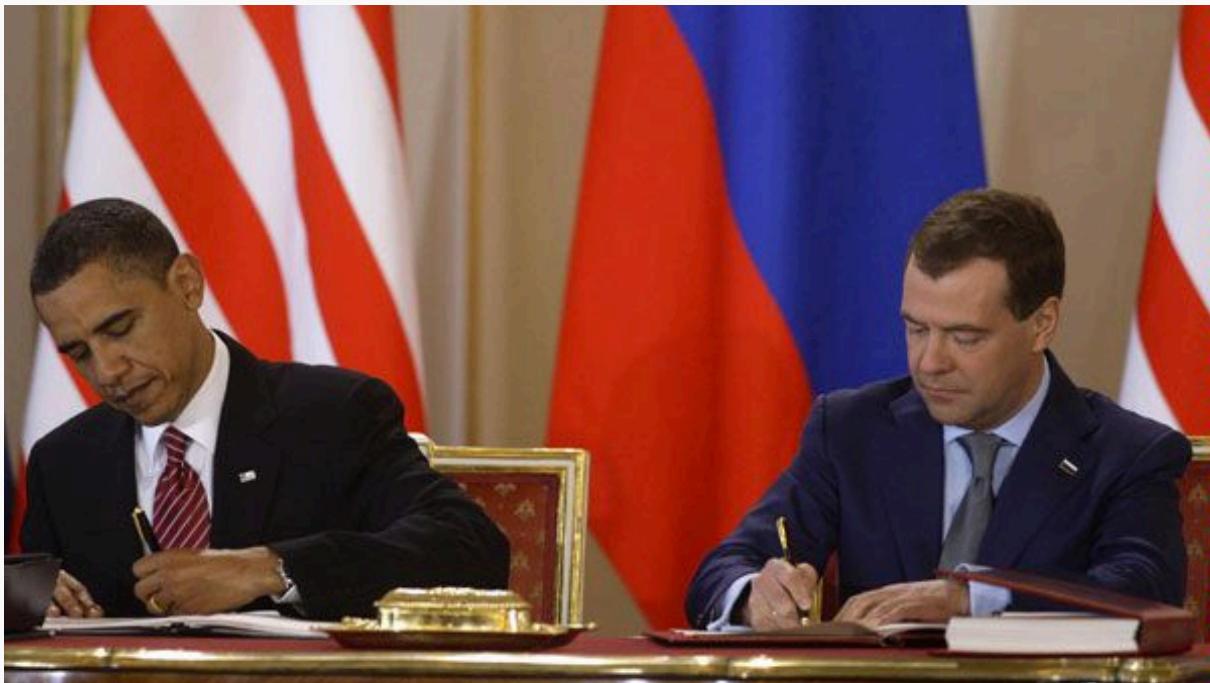


### Europe and ballistic-missile warning: space for improvement

**Giorgio Di Mizio, The International Institute for Strategic Studies, January 2026**

Russia's use of the Oreshnik (RS-SS-X-28) conventionally armed ballistic missile against Ukraine underscores this threat to NATO Europe. Launch detection, however, remains reliant on United States space-based systems, a dependency that the Alliance's European members are grappling to address.

[Read here](#)



## End of New START: Short- and Medium-Term Options

**Nikolai Sokov, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, January 2026**

The expiration of the New START Treaty on 5 February 2026 marks the end of an era that began in 1969, when the United States and the Soviet Union launched the SALT I negotiations. For the first time in decades, there will be no treaty constraining the nuclear arms race. VCDNP Senior Fellow Dr. Nikolai Sokov analyses what will be lost with the passing of New START, as well as the proposal by Russian President Vladimir Putin to continue observing the Treaty's quantitative and qualitative limits in the absence of a verification regime. That regime ended in the spring of 2023, when Russia suspended its participation in the Treaty. He concludes that although the arrangement proposed by Russia is largely symbolic, it is nonetheless desirable in light of the forthcoming NPT Review Conference. He also outlines a new agenda: a new generation of arms control and, perhaps more urgently, a new generation of risk-reduction and confidence-building measures. Sokov argues that the latter task is politically more feasible because such measures, while going a long way towards preventing unintended military conflict, could be negotiated in an adverse political environment and thus pave the way for more comprehensive arms control agreements.

[Read here](#)



*Photo: Shutterstock*

## Addressing Multidomain Nuclear Escalation Risk

**Wilfred Wan, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, January 2026**

Contemporary warfare is characterized by military operations that encompass multiple arenas - from air, land and sea to the increasingly prominent cyber, outer space and information domains - and feature the convergence of advanced technological capabilities. New vectors of vulnerability stemming from this and from increasing interactions between nuclear and non-nuclear capabilities raise the spectre of escalation and introduce new potential pathways for nuclear weapon use. These new risks have not been thoroughly explored in national policies or multilateral forums. Effectively addressing multidomain escalation risk requires that nuclear-armed states revisit the concept of 'strategic stability' and systematically map multidomain escalation scenarios while engaging non-nuclear-armed states and other stakeholders. The toolkit for avoiding and managing crisis also needs to be updated to reflect multidomain risk scenarios. These and other pragmatic steps can help prevent escalation pathways from coming into fruition. A longer-term approach is required to reverse both arms racing trends and current thinking regarding strategic capabilities.

[Read here](#)

## EU News

### EU Statement - UN Security Council: Maintenance of peace and security in Ukraine

12 January 2026, New York - Statement on behalf of the European Union delivered by H.E. Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations at the UN Security Council on Maintenance of peace and security in Ukraine.

[Read here](#)

## Network News

### New EUNPDC member!

We are pleased to welcome the Leiden Asia Centre to the EUNPDC consortium. The Leiden Asia Centre is an independent knowledge hub combining applied research, policy engagement, and public outreach to improve understanding of contemporary Asian issues and support decision-making in the Netherlands, Europe, and Asia.

[More info here](#)

### Deployment of Small Modular Reactors: A Pathway for Nuclear Energy Expansion

The VCDNP welcomed members of the Vienna diplomatic community and experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the public to a panel discussion on small modular reactors (SMRs) as a promising solution to rising energy needs on 21 January 2026.

[More info here](#)

## Podcast



In the latest episode of the Arms Control Primer podcast, host Dr Alexander Bollfrass is joined by Dr Hassan Elbahtimy and Robert Kelley, a former IAEA inspector, to discuss the Libyan nuclear weapons ambitions between 1969 and 2003, its partners in developing its nuclear ambitions, how the investigations into the programme went and what lessons can be learned from this interesting case. Dr Elbahtimy outlines the reason why Libya's nuclear programme could not come off the ground: "The Libyan case helps us perhaps also consider the challenges of having a dictator or a centralised government and what that means for nuclear programmes, because sometimes the impression is, with more centralised power, that you can have more successful nuclear programmes. But in the case of Libya, you see a political leader that defines himself outside state structures, thinks of himself as a thinker rather than a statesperson, dabbles with ideas, but not really a manager, thinks of himself as a ruler or philosopher rather than a political leader. And that style of leadership is one that is not very conducive to running big, technically demanding projects, it is not very good at building things."

[Listen here](#)

## Network Calls

### Senior Fellow for Cyber Power and Future Conflict, IISS-Asia

The IISS is seeking to appoint a Senior Fellow for Cyber Power and Future Conflict, to lead and advance our research programme in this area. The CPFC programme examines the global implications of cyber technology and cyber-adjacent advanced technologies for national power, strategic competition and future conflict. The successful candidate will bring extensive experience in their field to deliver in-depth and policy-relevant research. The candidate will report to the Executive Director of IISS-Asia and the Director for Defence, Technology and Future Conflict, and will work closely across the IISS' international offices.

The application deadline is **20 February 2026**.

[More info here](#)

---

### Research Analyst (Aerospace), Defence and Military Analysis Programme

The International Institute for Strategic Studies is looking to recruit a Research Analyst to work for the IISS Defence and Military Analysis Programme (DMAP), focusing on air and space forces and the air and space domains. The programme's major print and online output is the IISS flagship publication *The Military Balance* and the *Military Balance+* electronic database, widely regarded as the global benchmark in the assessment of national military capabilities and defence economics.

The deadline for applications is **13 February 2026**.

[More info here](#)