

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on
Pakistan nuclear tests**

The European Union is dismayed and disappointed at the news of a nuclear test by Pakistan. As with India's nuclear tests, the European Union condemns this action which runs counter to the will expressed by 149 signatories to the CTBT to cease nuclear testing, and to efforts to strengthen the global non-proliferation regime. India's nuclear tests have undermined the stability of the region. Pakistan's nuclear test has made the situation worse.

Following the nuclear tests by India, the EU made clear to Pakistan that a nuclear test by Pakistan would damage Pakistan's security environment. The EU had therefore strongly urged the Pakistan Government to exercise the maximum restraint and very much regrets that it has not done so.

The European Union remains fully committed to the implementation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Non-Proliferation Treaty which is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the essential foundations for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. It has a strong interest in the peace and stability of South Asia, and is deeply concerned about the threat posed to this by nuclear and missile proliferation. We urge Pakistan, along with other states in the region to refrain from further tests and the deployment of nuclear weapons or ballistic missiles. In particular we urge Pakistan and India:

- to sign the CTBT and move to ratify it;

- to contribute actively from now on towards opening negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva for a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons;
- to exert stringent controls over export of material, equipment and technology controlled under the Nuclear Suppliers Group Trigger and Dual Use Lists and the Missile Technology Control Regime Annex;
- to make a commitment neither to assemble nuclear devices nor deploy them on delivery vehicles and cease development and deployment of ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads.

The European Union will follow closely the evolution of the situation and will take all necessary measures should Pakistan and India not accede to and move to ratify the relevant international non-proliferation agreements in particular the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty without conditions. We also urge Pakistan and India to engage in a dialogue which addresses the root causes of the tension between them, and try to build confidence, rather than seek confrontation.
