

P R E S S   R E L I E U

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the negotiations of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**

The European Union expresses its support for the earliest possible transmission by the Conference on Disarmament of a draft comprehensive nuclear Test Ban Treaty to the UN General Assembly.

The declaration of the European Union on 22 April stated as follows : "The European Union attaches the highest priority and is strongly committed to the conclusion, before the end of the spring session of the Conference on Disarmament, of the negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty which will prohibit any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, so as to enable its signature by autumn, at the outset of the 51st UN General Assembly."

While the spring session concluded without formally adopting the treaty, there is still time to meet the objective of the signature of this treaty at the outset of the 51st UN General Assembly. The European Union remains fully committed to this objective.

However, if this historic opportunity is to be grasped, the text must be forwarded for adoption without delay.

On 28 June, at the close of the spring session of the Conference, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, Ambassador Jaap Ramaker, presented a draft integrated treaty text. He has made clear that this text represents, in his judgment, the maximum common ground between the negotiators. Nothing that has happened since the resumption of the current CD session would suggest a different judgment. The European Union believes that the 28 June text must command respect for its determined efforts to accommodate, to the greatest extent possible, views which have not been easy to reconcile.

Because the current text attempts to balance competing requirements, it does not and cannot reflect all the aspirations of all participants in the negotiations. EU Member States are not fully satisfied with the treatment of some of the key issues in the draft treaty. Like others, however, the EU feels that a spirit of compromise must prevail at this late stage. Too much is at stake for us to risk failure of this endeavour.

The European Union continues to believe that the conclusion of this treaty will be a concrete step in the full realisation and effective implementation of Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It will contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security.

The European Union therefore urges all countries that have participated in the negotiations to accept and adopt the treaty text so as to meet the objective of the signature at the outset of the 51st United Nations General Assembly.

The EFTA countries members of the EEA, the Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union and the associated countries Cyprus and Malta align themselves with this declaration.