

Disarmament and Non-proliferation of Non-Conventional Weaponry: *The role of the European Union*

Dr Jean Pascal Zanders
The Trench

T.M.C. Asser Institute
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Short history

- Origins: European Political Cooperation
 - promotion of political consultation on foreign affairs among EU members
- 1992 Maastricht Treaty:
 - Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)
 - Strengthen international security
 - Apply principles of the UN Charter
 - Promote international cooperation
 - However, mostly related to regional security (→ Fall Iron Curtain)
 - Tools
 - Common position
 - Joint Actions [Today: Action plans]
- 1997 Amsterdam Treaty
 - New responsibilities
 - High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)
- 2001 Treaty of Nice
 - enhanced cooperation viz. implementation joint action or common position



The EU WMD Strategy (2003)

- Precursor developments
 - 5th Review Conference of the BTWC (December 2001)
 - USA kills negotiation of a legally binding protocol to the BTWC
 - Does not consult with EU on its decision
 - Start of systematic consultations among EU Members in disarmament and non-proliferation forums
 - Invasion of Iraq (March 2003)
 - Support for the US-led invasion deeply divided the EU
- Thessalonika meeting (19–20 June 2003)
 - EU Council Declaration on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
 - Appointment of Personal Representative on Non-Proliferation of WMD
- 3 core documents (December 2003)
 - Common Position on the universalisation and reinforcement of multilateral agreements
 - Requirement to include the so-called non-proliferation clause in all new agreements and revision of old ones
 - EU strategy against proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Core elements

- EU's perception of the proliferation threat
 - In 2008: inclusion of terrorism as major threat
- Emphasis on (effective) multilateralism with regard to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation
- Specific steps to address the proliferation threat
 - Centrality of the role of the United Nations
 - Fostering regional peace, security and stability
 - Cooperation with the United States and other allies
 - Establishment of a WMD Monitoring Centre (December 2006)
 - Six-monthly reports on implementation of the strategy



Lisbon Treaty

- Entry into force: 1 December 2009
- Creates European External Action Service (EEAS)
 - Abolishes positions of CFSP High Representative and Personal Representative
 - Creates position of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (Catherine Ashton)
 - Diminishes role of Presidencies → EEAS has its own missions
- Continuation of disarmament and non-proliferation policies
 - Weapons Of Mass Destruction, Conventional Weapons And Space Division
 - Principal Adviser and Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament to Ashton

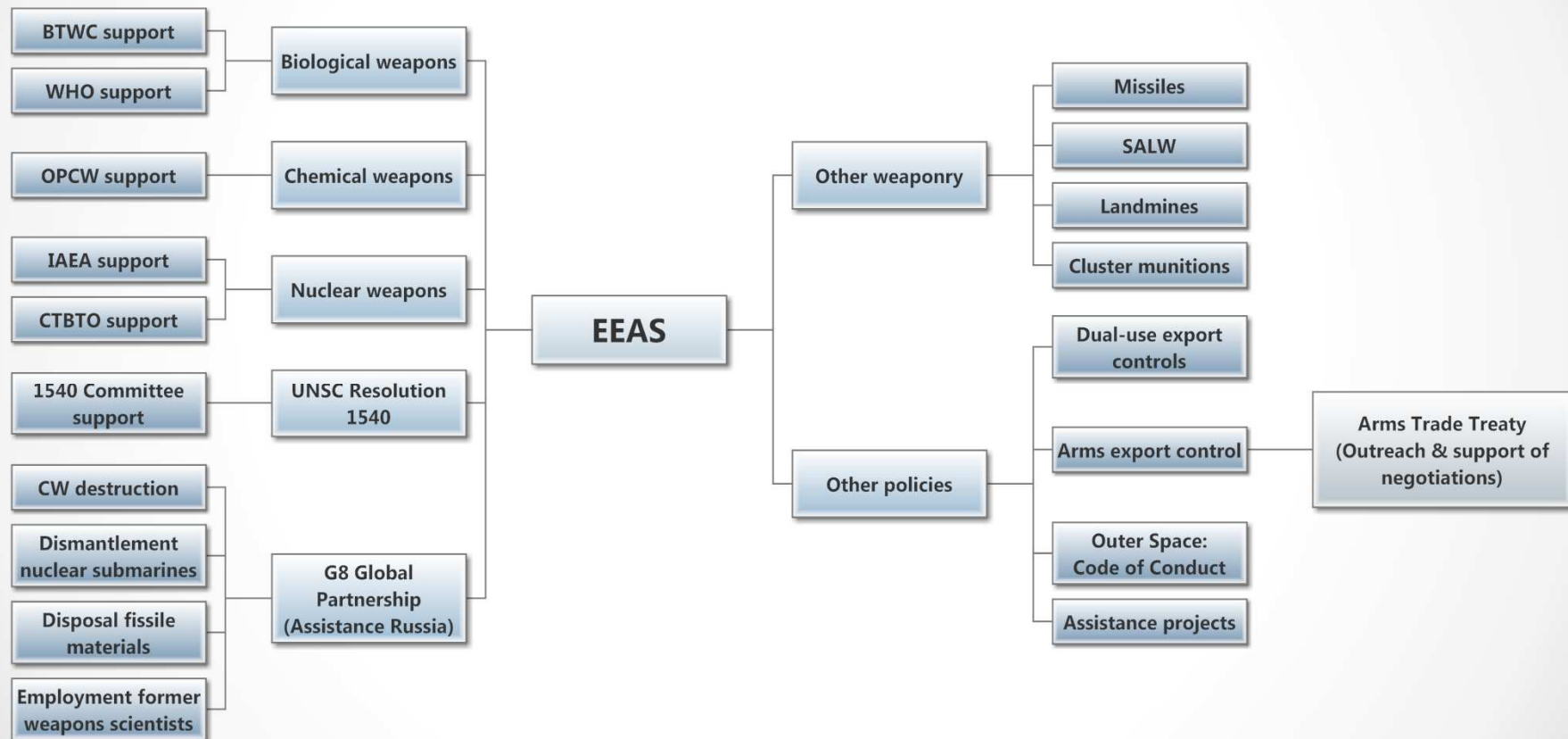


Competencies coordination

- CODUN
 - Global Disarmament and Arms Control Working Group
 - Addresses *inter alia* chemical and biological weapons
- CODUN SPACE
 - Disarmament and Space Experts Working Group
- CONOP
 - Non-Proliferation Working Group (Nuclear)
- COARM and COARM ATT
 - Conventional Arms Exports Working Group
- Now chaired by EEAS officials
 - Previously by rotating EU Presidency
 - Meet monthly



EEAS support for weapon control



Current & recent projects (Sample)

- BTWC
 - CWC (OPCW)
 - CTBT (CTBTO PrepCom)
 - IAEA
 - Ballistic missiles (HCOC)
 - ME disarmament
 - EU Non-proliferation Consortium (Civil society network)
- € 1.7 mn
 - €2.14 mn
 - €5.185 mn
 - €9.966 mn
 - €0.93 mn
 - €0.347 mn
 - €2.182 mn

Source: Six-monthly Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (2013/I)

http://eeas.europa.eu/non-proliferation-and-disarmament/pdf/oj_c_228-4_dated_7_august_2013.pdf



Current issues and challenges

- EU cannot launch new disarmament initiatives
 - There needs to be consensus among all Member States
 - For example, nuclear disarmament
 - France & UK are NW possessors
 - Several states are also member of NATO
 - EU's contribution therefore consists essentially of supporting existing multilateral treaties and arrangements
- Post-Lisbon Treaty
 - EU now relegated to observer status in diplomatic forums
 - EU is not a party to treaties
 - Previously addressed meetings from desk of EU Presidency
 - May still make plenary statements, but cannot speak in special committees
 - Impact on relevancy and efficacy of EU coordination (e.g., working papers)
 - Field of tension with Member States that do not wish to relinquish sovereignty in foreign policy
 - Economic and monetary crisis: Less money to talk and influence proceedings
- Post-Bush USA
 - In 2003 the EU became a key player between US and other parts of the world, because of attitude Bush administration to security and disarmament
 - Election Obama: intermediary role of EU no longer essential
 - EU's WMD strategy was compromise to bridge divisions after Iraq invasion
 - Many elements still close to Bush Administration world view
 - Certain concepts are vague and difficult to operationalise (e.g., effective multilateralism)
 - EU's non-proliferation clause challenged, internally & externally (e.g., China, India, Syria, ...)

Useful links

- European Union
 - Non-proliferation, disarmament and export control
 - http://eeas.europa.eu/non-proliferation-and-disarmament/index_en.htm
 - The fight against proliferation of WMD
 - http://eeas.europa.eu/non-proliferation-and-disarmament/wmd/index_en.htm
 - Main documents
 - http://eeas.europa.eu/non-proliferation-and-disarmament/documentation/documents/index_en.htm
- EU Institute for Security Studies (EU ISS)
 - Home page
 - <http://www.iss.europa.eu/>
 - Disarmament and non-proliferation publications
 - <http://www.iss.europa.eu/topics/disarmament/>
- EU Non-proliferation Consortium
 - Home page
 - <http://www.nonproliferation.eu/>
 - Publications
 - <http://www.nonproliferation.eu/thematics/thematics.php>
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E-mail

jpzanders@the-trench.org