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

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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
  o 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
  o Invasion of Iraq (March 2003)
    • Support for the US-led invasion deeply divided the EU

• Thessalonika meeting (19–20 June 2003)
  o EU Council Declaration on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
  o Appointment of Personal Representative on Non-Proliferation of WMD

• 3 core documents (December 2003)
  o Common Position on the universalisation and reinforcement of multilateral agreements
  o Requirement to include the so-called non-proliferation clause in all new agreements and revision of old ones
  o EU strategy against proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Core elements

• EU’s perception of the proliferation threat
  o 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
  o Centrality of the role of the United Nations
  o Fostering regional peace, security and stability
  o Cooperation with the United States and other allies
  o Establishment of a WMD Monitoring Centre (December 2006)
  o 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)
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
  o Non-proliferation, disarmament and export control
  o The fight against proliferation of WMD
  o Main documents

• EU Institute for Security Studies (EU ISS)
  o Home page
  o Disarmament and non-proliferation publications

• EU Non-proliferation Consortium
  o Home page
    • [http://www.nonproliferation.eu/](http://www.nonproliferation.eu/)
  o Publications
  o Documents on EU policies
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