

The EU and the future of the BTWC

Strategies towards and beyond the 8th Review Conference

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End of a special era

- **Collapse of the 5th RevCon (2001)**

- 1st separate coordination by EU member states in 2001
- EU contributed to salvaging the BTWC process → intersessional meetings
 - Focus on actionable programme items rather than on deepening treaty regime

- **Invasion of Iraq (2003)**

- Highly divisive for EU
- Fresh common ground for EU member states via *EU Strategy against the proliferation of WMD*

- **Privileged intermediary**

- EU viewed as a moderating influence on the Bush administration
- Gave EU a prominent role as an honest broker
- Ended, however, with the election of President Obama

6th and 7th BTWC RevCons

- **6th RevCon: In-depth preparations**

- Submission of in-depth EU working papers
 - 7 consensus documents of (then) 25 EU member states and presented by 1 or 2 states
 - No consensus on one document; presented as national working paper
 - Supported by concrete action: 1st Joint Action in support of the BTWC (2006 – 08)
- Weakness of EU negotiating strategy
 - EU working papers generated great interest, particularly during 1st week of RevCon
 - 2nd week: running behind negotiations
 - Consensus-building process too cumbersome to adapt positions in function of debates
 - 3 decision-making centres: capitals, Brussels and delegation coordination in Geneva
 - 3rd week: decision time and irrelevancy of EU positions
 - No updated positions
 - No prioritising of positions (EU red lines & secondary preferences; fall-back strategies)

- **7th RevCon: No coherence among national positions**

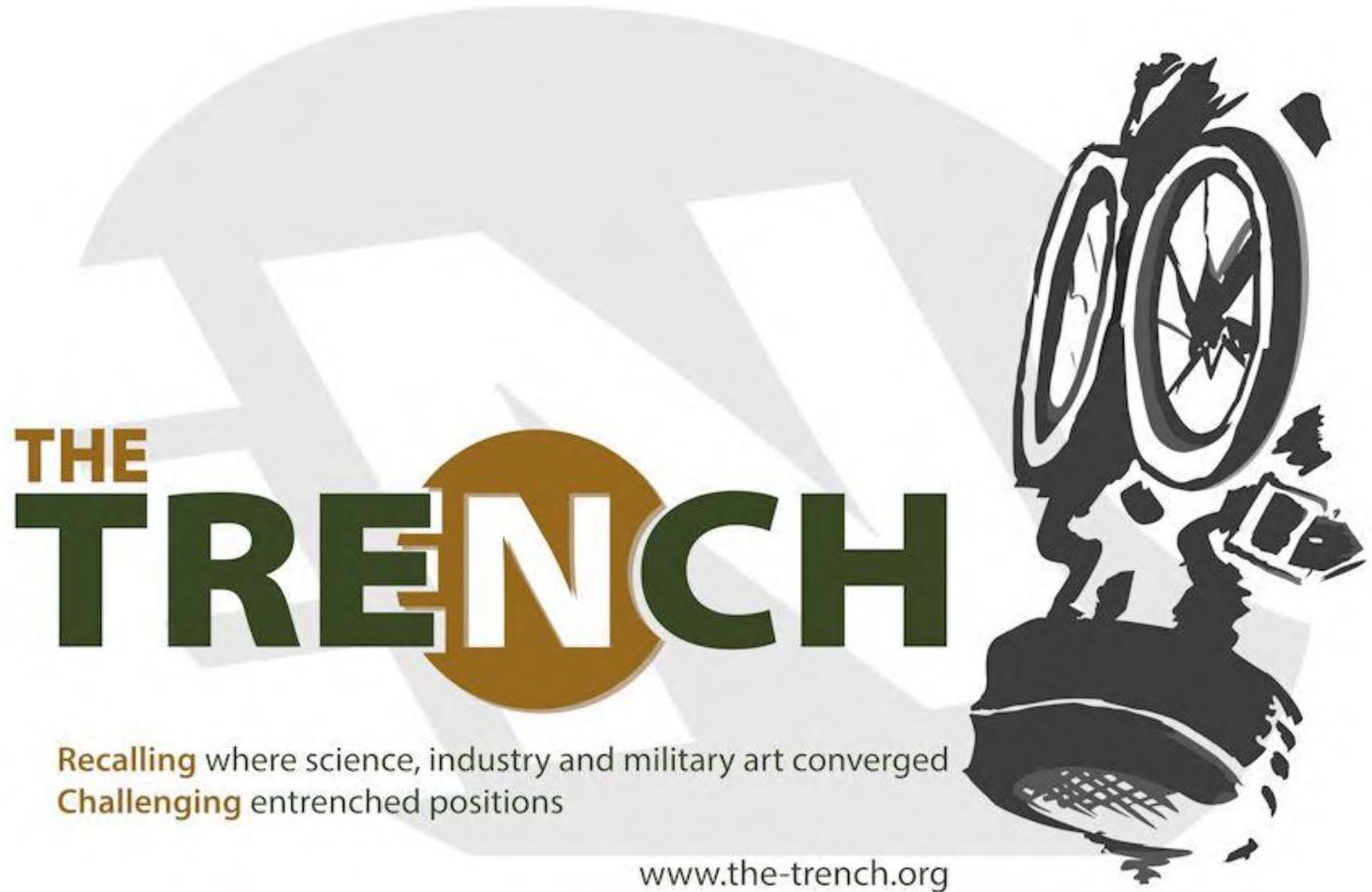
- Common position, but national working papers (no longer on behalf of the EU)
- Less visibility for EU of follow-on Joint Actions (now via ISU / UNODA)
- Some EU members shot down other EU member positions, even though in CP
- Refusal of one EU member to support expansion of ISU, even though in CP



Final front bench (Dec 2010)

Towards 8th RevCon (2016) and beyond

- **In the making**
 - New common position for the RevCon
 - New Action Plan in support of the BTWC
- **Actionable programme elements**
 - Continuation of the intersessional process
 - Identify concrete programme elements that are red lines for EU members + common defence
 - Have priorities reflected in new Action Plan in support of the BTWC
- **Challenges for the EU member states**
 - The opportunistic coalition of the unwilling (or 'PRIIC's')
 - Need for coordinated tactical approach on how to introduce a proposal (*including prior to RevCon*)
 - Coordinated respond to their challenges or counter undesired proposals
 - 40th Anniversary of entry into force of BTWC (March 2015)
 - Russia re-emphasised its proposal to reopen negotiations using AHG mandate and create OPBW
 - USA laid out its red lines for the RevCon
 - EU RevCon consultative process : how to adapt common positions and strategy to evolving realities?
- **Long-term strategic thinking on the deepening of the BTWC regime**
 - *Bringing back disarmament*: What is the EU's longer-term vision for the BTWC?
 - How can the EU help to modify the framework for debate in function of that vision?
 - How can the EU set up action programme in the field to engage partners worldwide on that vision?



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