Recommendation to the High Representative and to the Council under Rule 118 in preparation of the 2020 Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT) review process, nuclear arms control and nuclear disarmament options

2020/2004(INI) - 25/02/2020 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Sven MIKSER (S&D, EE) on a European Parliament recommendation to the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning the preparation of the 2020 Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT) review process, nuclear arms control and nuclear disarmament options.

Members recalled that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has undoubtedly been the most important international instrument for regulating the nuclear regime for the last 50 years.

The 2020 Review Conference will take place in a particularly challenging international security context, owing to the lack of progress in the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, the withdrawal of the US from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran, the collapse of the INF Treaty, and the stalemate in negotiations for the extension of the new START Treaty between Russia and the US.

With a view to ensuring the success of the 2020 review process, Members made the following key recommendations to the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:

- reiterate that effective multilateralism and a rules-based international order are a precondition for countering the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

- reaffirm that the NPT is a cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, a vital bulwark against the risk of nuclear proliferation, and an irreplaceable framework for maintaining and strengthening peace and security worldwide;

- reaffirm the full support of the EU and its Member States for the NPT and its three mutually reinforcing pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy;

- continue providing support to the activities leading up to the 2020 NPT Review Conference, through a financial contribution of EUR 1.3 million to outreach activities;

- continue emphasising that any further deepening of divergences among states would lead to a progressive discrediting of the NPT as a reliable global legal instrument and to an erosion of the global disarmament regime;

- stress that effective nuclear disarmament verification is essential for achieving a world without nuclear weapons and urge the states parties to do their utmost to achieve further progress in arms control and nuclear disarmament processes;

- urge the US and Russia to enhance mutual trust and confidence with a view to resuming a dialogue on possible ways to build a new arms control relationship and encourage both parties to negotiate a new instrument that would encompass both deployed and non-deployed, as well as strategic and non-strategic weapons, and would include China;

- express alarm at the demise of the INF Treaty, also in view of the fact that medium-range missiles are particularly liable to increase the risks of nuclear escalation on the European continent;

- confirm the right of the NPT parties to the peaceful use of nuclear energy to meet their long-term energy requirements, in conformity with the NPT provisions;

- limit the transfer of proliferation-relevant nuclear technology to NPT states parties which have concluded and are implementing International Atomic Energy Agency full scope safeguards;

- continue its efforts to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.