Resolution on nuclear disarmament in 2005, 3rd NPT PrepCom, New York, 26 April-07 May 2004

2004/2517(RSP) - 26/02/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on nuclear disarmament reaffirming its position that the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is of vital importance for the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and that therefore every effort should be made to implement the Treaty in all its aspects. It recalled that the EU's objective is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and expects the declared and undeclared nuclear weapon states to engage actively with this issue and to make further progress towards reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons. The EU and its Member States should - in a spirit of 'effective multilateralism'- form a common front at the NPT Preparatory Committee (NPT PrepCom) and the NPT Review Conference in 2005, and make a positive contribution to the discussions. Parliament urges them to attach, in their statements, special importance to new initiatives on nuclear disarmament and the revitalisation of the UN Conference on Disarmament. Parliament went on to stress the importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions and in accordance with institutional procedures, to achieve the earliest possible entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). It called on the Council and the Commission to insist on this in the dialogue with those State partners who have not yet ratified the CTBT and/or the NPT. Parliament reiterated its call to the USA to stop the development of new generations of battlefield nuclear weapons (bunkerbusters) and to sign and ratify the CTBT. It expressed its strong belief that nuclear disarmament activity will contribute significantly to international security and strategic stability and also reduce the risk of thefts of plutonium by terrorists. It is incumbent on all states, and nuclear weapon states in particular, not to provide assistance or encouragement to states that may seek to acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, in particular those states which are not parties to the NPT. Parliament recognised the positive moves made by Iran in signing the additional protocol on nuclear material standards and hoped that the Majlis would ratify the text within a reasonable period. It welcomed Libya's intention to renounce nuclear weapons programmes and to accept unconditional inspections. Finally, Parliament called on the EU to work with its international partners to develop and promote a nuclear free zone in the Middle East.