Resolution on the Non-Proliferation Treaty 2005 Review Conference – Nuclear arms in North Korea and Iran

2005/2518(RSP) - 10/03/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The Parliament adopted a resolution on the Non-Proliferation Treaty 2005 Review Conference. It reaffirms its position that the NPT is of vital importance to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to nuclear disarmament.

Firstly, Parliament calls on EU and its Member States – in a spirit of 'effective multilateralism' and solidarity and in pursuit of the EU Strategy against the proliferation of WMD – to form a common front at the NPT Review Conference in 2005 and make a positive contribution to the discussions. It urges that their statements attach special importance to new initiatives on nuclear disarmament and the revitalisation of the UN Conference on Disarmament. In addition, it calls on the EU to work with its international partners, including NATO, to develop and promote the principles to prevent terrorists, or those that harbour them, from gaining access to weapons and materials of mass destruction.

The Council and the Commission are called on to come forward with a proposal to persuade third states and the Member States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the IAEA Additional Protocols.

The importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay, without conditions and in accordance with institutional processes of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is stressed, to ensure its earliest possible entry into force. Parliament reiterates its call for the USA to stop the development of new generations of battlefield nuclear weapons (bunkerbusters) and to sign and ratify the CTBT; also calls on the USA to clarify the situation as regards the quantity and strategic objectives of its tactical nuclear arsenals stationed on European bases.

Israel, India and Pakistan are called upon to become States Parties to the NPT.

Parliament expresses its concern that Hassan Rowhani, Secretary of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council, reiterated in February 2005 that Tehran would not give up its 'right under the NPT to enrich uranium', and calls on the Iranian authorities to stop making confusing and contradictory statements. Moreover, it takes notes that Russia and Iran signed a nuclear fuel supply agreement paving the way for Iran to start up its first atomic reactor in Bushehr next year and obliging Tehran to repatriate all spent nuclear fuel to Russia. The Commission and the Council are called upon to open an initiative with the Government of the Russian Federation to obtain guarantees that its recent agreement with Iran on the delivery of nuclear material is solely intended for civilian use and to ensure support for EU diplomatic efforts. It counts on the IAEA to monitor closely the fuel transfers between Russia and Iran.

Lastly, Parliament is deeply concerned about North Korea’s declaration stating that it possesses nuclear weapons and suspended its participation in the six-party talks on its nuclear programme for an indefinite period of time. The Council and the Commission are called upon to offer financial support for heavy fuel oil supplies to remedy North Korea's primary energy needs.