

Resolution on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

2007/2522(RSP) - 14/03/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament by a large majority, and called upon all States whose activities violate the non-proliferation regime to cease their unwise and irresponsible behaviour and to comply fully with their obligations under the NPT. It reiterated its call on all States not party to the NPT to comply voluntarily with and accede to the Treaty. Parliament reaffirmed its position that the NPT was the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and an important element in furthering the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general disarmament.

It urged both the Council and the Commission to participate actively in the discussions held at the NPT PrepCom in Vienna and to make a coordinated, and visible contribution to a positive outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Both Council and Commission must clarify which steps they envisaged taking to strengthen the NPT and to pursue effective multilateralism, as set out in the December 2003 EU Strategy against proliferation of WMD. For multilateral efforts to be effective, Parliament felt that they must be set within a well-developed vision of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world at the earliest possible date.

It urged the Council Presidency to produce regular progress reports in the years leading up to the 2010 Review Conference on the implementation of each of the 43 measures adopted in Council Common Position 2005/329/PESC, as well as a list of new commitments that the Council hoped to achieve at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. The Council Presidency also needed to promote at the NPT PrepCom a number of disarmament initiatives based on the "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament" agreed upon at the 1995 NPT Review Conference and the "13 Practical Steps" agreed unanimously at the Year 2000 NPT Review Conference. These must be improved upon and implemented in order to make progress and to avoid regress or standstill. Lastly, the Presidency should break the deadlock on establishing a verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, and speed up the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by all States, in particular those whose ratification is required for it to enter into force. A delegation should be sent to Vienna to participate in the NPT PrepCom events, and Parliament asked the Council Presidency to include Parliament representatives in the EU delegation (a precedent set by the EU delegation to the UN 2006 Small Arms Conference in New York).