

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the entry into force
of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on 5 March 1970, the European Union reiterates its firm support for this Treaty.

For the EU, the NPT has a fundamental role to play in strengthening global peace and security and remains both the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime, as well as the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

The EU welcomes that 187 countries are already parties to the Treaty, but feels, nevertheless, that universal adherence is a key to the reinforcement of the global non-proliferation and disarmament objectives which are at the core of the Union's policy. The EU therefore urges those states that have not yet done so, to take the necessary steps to accede to the NPT.

The EU is deeply committed to a better, more promising and internationally secure environment for all. Its Member States, both individually and collectively, will work hard for a successful outcome to the 2000 NPT Review Conference, whose work is scheduled to begin shortly in New York, and call on all other States Party to join them in this endeavour.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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