

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**Declaration by the European Union  
on the CTBT negotiations**

The European Union attaches the highest priority and is strongly committed to the conclusion, before the end of the spring session of the Conference on Disarmament, of the negotiations on a Comprehensive nuclear Test Ban Treaty which will prohibit any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, so as to enable its signature by autumn, at the outset of the 51st UN General Assembly.

The European Union stresses the importance of ensuring that the Treaty is universal and is internationally and effectively verifiable.

Such a Treaty will be a concrete step in the full realisation and effective implementation of Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It will contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security.

The European Union welcomes and endorses the 'zero yield' option supported by a large number of countries and calls on those countries who have not yet done so to subscribe to this position.

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