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**Declaration by the European Union and  
the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe,  
the associated countries Cyprus and Malta and the  
EFTA countries members of  
the European Economic Area  
on preparation for the Fourth Review Conference of the  
Convention on bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons (BTWC)**

The associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta and the EFTA countries members of the EEA declare that they share the objectives of the common position defined by the Council of the European Union on 10 June 1996 on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union relating to preparation for the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction and that they will see to it that their national policies conform to that common position.

The European Union takes note of this commitment and welcomes it.

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