

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2008/2324(INI)	Procedure completed
Non-proliferation and the future of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)		
Subject 6.10.03 Armaments control, non-proliferation nuclear weapons		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Foreign Affairs	Vers/ALE BEER Angelika	07/10/2008
European Commission	Commission DG External Relations	Commissioner FERRERO-WALDNER Benita	

Key events			
11/09/2008	Non-legislative basic document published	B6-0421/2008	Summary
18/12/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
31/03/2009	Vote in committee		Summary
03/04/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0234/2009	
23/04/2009	Debate in Parliament		
24/04/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/04/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0333/2009	Summary
24/04/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/2324(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 134o-p3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/6/70716

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		B6-0421/2008	11/09/2008	EP	Summary
Committee draft report		PE418.236	19/02/2009	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE420.214	20/02/2009	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0234/2009	03/04/2009	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0333/2009	24/04/2009	EP	Summary

Non-proliferation and the future of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Pursuant to Rule 114(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, Annemie NEYTS-UYTTEBROECK (ALDE, BE) and Angelika BEER (Greens/ALE, DE), on behalf of their respective political groups, have drafted a proposal for a recommendation on non-proliferation and the future of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) (2010).

The proposal for a recommendation calls on the Council to:

- engage and contribute pro-actively to the work in preparation for the NPT review conference;
- devise a strategy on how to reinforce NPT, working in close cooperation with non-EU partners in NATO;
- initiate the establishment of the Nuclear Weapons Convention that would incorporate and reinforce the existing non-proliferation and disarmament instruments, including the NPT, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as proposals for a Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty and continental/regional treaties on nuclear weapon free zones.

Non-proliferation and the future of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by Angelika BEER (Greens/EFA, DE), proposing that the European Parliament address a number of recommendations to the Council on non-proliferation and the future of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

MEPs recall that the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs), and their means of delivery, both to state and non-state actors, represents one of the most serious threats to international stability and security. They also recall the commitment of the EU to make use of all instruments at its disposal to prevent, deter, halt and if possible eliminate proliferation programmes causing concern at global level (as clearly expressed by the EU Strategy against Proliferation of WMD adopted by the European Council on 12 December 2003).

Moreover, bearing in mind the initiatives of the French and British governments to reduce their nuclear arsenals and the fact that Barack Obama, the then President-elect, underlined that the United States will strive for a world in which there are no nuclear weapons, and will work with Russia to dramatically reduce the stockpiles of US nuclear weapons and material, the committee addresses the following recommendations to the Council:

- review and update Council Common Position 2005/329/PESC relating to the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (to be endorsed at the December 2009 European Council meeting), in preparation for a successful outcome at the 2010 NPT Review Conference;
- intensify efforts to secure the universalisation and effective implementation of non-proliferation rules and instruments, in particular by improving means of verification;
- actively support concrete proposals to bring the production, use and reprocessing of all nuclear fuel under the control of the IAEA, including the creation of an international fuel bank and support other initiatives for the multilateralisation of the nuclear fuel cycle aimed at the peaceful use of nuclear energy (in that regard that Parliament welcomes the readiness of the Council and the Commission to contribute up to EUR 25 million to the creation of a nuclear fuel bank under the control of the IAEA);
- support further efforts to strengthen the mandate of the IAEA, including the generalisation of the Additional Protocols to the IAEA Safeguard Agreements, and other steps designed to develop confidence-building measures;
- make substantial progress on the G8 Partnership initiative, the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, and push for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT);
- deepen its dialogue with the new US administration and all nuclear-weapons powers, with a view to pursuing a common agenda aimed at progressive reduction of the nuclear warheads stockpile; in particular, support those steps being taken by the USA and Russia to substantially reduce their nuclear weapons;
- develop strategies at the 2010 NPT Review Conference aimed at achieving agreement on a treaty to halt the production of fissile material for weapons purposes in a way that is not discriminatory (which means that the treaty thus negotiated should require not only non-nuclear-weapons States or States currently outside the NPT but also the five UN Security Council members, all of which possess nuclear weapons, to forswear the production of fissile material for weapons and to dismantle all their established fissile material production facilities for such weapons);
- fully support the reinforcement and improvement of means of verification of compliance with all available non-proliferation instruments;
- request an evaluation of the effectiveness of the use of clauses on non-proliferation of WMD in the agreements concluded between the EU and third States;
- keep Parliament regularly informed about all preparatory meetings in the run-up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference and duly take into account its views on non-proliferation and disarmament matters with regard to that Conference.

Non-proliferation and the future of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The European Parliament adopted by 271 votes to 38, with 29 abstentions, a resolution in which it addresses a number of recommendations to the Council on non-proliferation and the future of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The Parliament recalls that the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs), and their means of delivery, both to state and non-state actors, represents one of the most serious threats to international stability and security. It also recalls the commitment of the EU to make use of all instruments at its disposal to prevent, deter, halt and if possible eliminate proliferation programmes causing concern at global level (as clearly expressed by the EU Strategy against Proliferation of WMD adopted by the European Council on 12 December 2003).

In this context, the plenary welcomes the letter dated 5 December 2008 from the French EU Presidency to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon setting out the EU's disarmament proposals which were adopted by the European Council in December 2008.

Moreover, the Parliament recalls the initiatives of the French and British governments to reduce their nuclear arsenals. It also recalls that, in Prague on 5 April 2009, Barack Obama, the newly elected President, underlined his commitment to take nuclear disarmament forward (as part of his vision of a world without nuclear weapons), and that he decided to engage in constructive cooperation with Russia to renew the START agreement in order to take ballistic missiles off hair-trigger alert and to dramatically reduce the stockpiles of US nuclear weapons and material.

In particular, the plenary welcomes the US decision to fully participate in the E3 + 3 process with Iran and the intention of President Obama to finalise the ratification by the United States of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and to initiate negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty. Moreover, the plenary welcomes the speech made in Prague by US President Obama, in which he stated that the USA has a moral responsibility to lead a campaign to rid the world of all nuclear weapons, whilst calling on the new US administration to include the European Union fully in this campaign.

In this general context, the Parliament addresses the following recommendations to the Council:

- review and update [Council Common Position 2005/329/PESC](#) relating to the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (to be endorsed at the December 2009 European Council meeting), in preparation for a successful outcome at the 2010 NPT Review Conference and commit to the aim of eventual total nuclear disarmament, as contained in the proposal for a Nuclear Weapons Convention;
- intensify efforts to secure the universalisation and effective implementation of non-proliferation rules and instruments, in particular by improving means of verification;
- actively support concrete proposals to bring the production, use and reprocessing of all nuclear fuel under the control of the IAEA, including the creation of an international fuel bank;
- support other initiatives for the multilateralisation of the nuclear fuel cycle aimed at the peaceful use of nuclear energy (in that regard that Parliament welcomes the readiness of the Council and the Commission to contribute up to EUR 25 million to the creation of a nuclear fuel bank under the control of the IAEA);
- support further efforts to strengthen the mandate of the IAEA, including the generalisation of the Additional Protocols to the IAEA Safeguard Agreements, and other steps designed to develop confidence-building measures;
- make substantial progress on the G8 Partnership initiative, the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative;
- push for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT);
- deepen its dialogue with the new US administration and all nuclear-weapons powers, with a view to pursuing a common agenda aimed at progressive reduction of the nuclear warheads stockpile; in particular, support those steps being taken by the USA and Russia to substantially reduce their nuclear weapons;
- develop strategies at the 2010 NPT Review Conference aimed at achieving agreement on a treaty to halt the production of fissile material for weapons purposes in a way that is not discriminatory (which means that the treaty thus negotiated should require not only non-nuclear-weapons States or States currently outside the NPT but also the five UN Security Council members, all of which possess nuclear weapons, to forswear the production of fissile material for weapons and to dismantle all their established fissile material production facilities for such weapons);
- fully support the reinforcement and improvement of means of verification of compliance with all available non-proliferation instruments;
- request an evaluation of the effectiveness of the use of clauses on non-proliferation of WMD in the agreements concluded between the EU and third States;
- keep Parliament regularly informed about all preparatory meetings in the run-up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference and duly take into account its views on non-proliferation and disarmament matters with regard to that Conference.