


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1994/2137(INI)	Procedure completed
Treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. New York Conference 1995		
Subject 6.10.03 Armaments control, non-proliferation nuclear weapons		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		Appointed 05/10/1994
			PSE WIERSMA Jan Marinus
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		Appointed 26/01/1995
			V AHERN Nuala

Key events			
26/10/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/03/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
21/03/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0054/1995	
04/04/1995	Debate in Parliament		
05/04/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0135/1995	Summary
05/04/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/05/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1994/2137(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/05992

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0054/1995 OJ C 109 01.05.1995, p. 0004	21/03/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0135/1995 OJ C 109 01.05.1995, p. 0031-0041	05/04/1995	EP	Summary

Treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. New York Conference 1995

The position adopted by the committee on the eve of the opening of the New York conference on extending the NPT (17 April to 12 May 1995) is that the European Union should set an example by lobbying for a total nuclear test ban. This approach is set out in the report by Mr Jan Marinus Wiersma (PSE, NL) which was adopted by a large majority of members (with the Greens and GUE/NGL abstaining). The committee arrived at this point by adopting an amendment proposed by the Greens, calling for joint action along these lines and, in the meantime, for the Member States of the European Union to expressly renounce all nuclear tests. The European Union was also called on to take an initiative at the UNO conference on disarmament which would lead to global nuclear disarmament. The report in fact starts from the premise that the NPT has not prevented the knowledge and skills needed to manufacture nuclear weapons from spreading. In addition, this treaty does not offer countries with no nuclear capability sufficient guarantees, which is why it considers that the European Union should set an example and ensure that the conference avoids a temporary solution at all costs. The members support the joint action by the Fifteen to obtain an unconditional and indefinite extension of the NPT. In order to be effective, any action must be backed up by sanctions, hence the call for sanctions in order to crack down on any violation of the provisions of the treaty (example of Iraq and North Korea). For the same reason, the international Community should introduce instruments which allow it to prosecute cases of illegal nuclear proliferation, including illegal trafficking in radioactive substances and fissile materials. However, countries with no nuclear capability which can be used for military purposes will have to be offered guarantees if they are to accede. In order to achieve this, the Wiersma report backs the call from such countries for more solid guarantees under a treaty protecting them from any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Countries with nuclear weapons must therefore undertake not to use them first against countries with no nuclear weapons. In addition, Mr Wiersma recommends effectively strengthening the controls by ensuring that countries with nuclear weapons allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to check their entire nuclear capability. Controls could also be made more efficient by creating a UNO register of nuclear arms. This report is due to be debated during the April session.?

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The European Parliament adopted the Wiersma report. In its resolution, Parliament: - supported the option to extend the Non-Proliferation Treaty indefinitely and unconditionally; - called on the Member States of the European Union to: . undertake within the framework of the Geneva Convention to conclude a treaty on a complete ban on nuclear tests as quickly as possible and to implement joint action along these lines; . expressly renounce all nuclear tests pending joint action; . take the initiative to open negotiations within the framework of the United Nations conference on disarmament on a nuclear weapons treaty leading to global nuclear disarmament; - called for a ban on the production of fissile material which can be used for military purposes and supported the demand for an international agency to be set up to control highly enriched plutonium and uranium and called on the Council to take concerted action in this respect.?