EU EoV on draft Resolution L.3
"The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East"

Mr. Chairman,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union on draft resolution L.3 entitled “The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East”.

Mr. Chairman,

The European Union intends to vote in favour of this draft resolution. The EU has always been fully committed to the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems. Therefore the EU remains committed to the full implementation of the resolutions on the Middle East adopted by the Security Council and by the 1995 NPT Review Conference. In addition, the EU supports the mechanism, as agreed by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, for the implementation of the 1995 NPT Resolution on the Middle East which includes in particular the convening by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 NPT resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, of a conference in 2012, to be attended by all states of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the states of the region, and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear weapons States. The EU is ready to put forward concrete measures to contribute to this process, including the organisation of a seminar as a follow-up to the one organised by the EU in Paris in June 2008. We call on all states in the region, which have not yet done so, to accede to the NPT, to the conventions for the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons, as well as to sign and ratify CTBT, and to conclude with the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements and an Additional Protocol.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU regrets that this resolution is not sufficiently comprehensive in that it does not address all the nuclear proliferation challenges in the region.

This resolution does not mention the serious proliferation risks related to Iran’s nuclear and ballistic programme. By violating its safeguards agreement with the IAEA, by continuing not to comply with UNSC Resolutions, by limiting its cooperation with the IAEA and not meeting the requirements of the IAEA Board of Governors, Iran has raised serious concerns of the international community with regard to the nature of its nuclear programme. The adoption on 9 June 2010 by the UNSC of resolution 1929 reflects these concerns: Iran has to comply with the UNSC Resolutions and Board of Governors
resolutions and has to fully cooperate with the IAEA in order to build confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. On 22 September in New York, the EU High Representative, on behalf of the EU and the six countries engaged in the diplomatic effort towards Iran, stated that the objective remains to achieve a negotiated comprehensive and long-term solution which re-establishes the confidence of the international community in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme, while respecting Iran's legitimate rights to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We call upon Iran to respond positively and without further delay to this offer for dialogue.

The EU also notes the recent reports by the IAEA Director General with regard to Syria. The EU supports the Director General's call for full cooperation with the IAEA's investigations and provision of access to any relevant information relating to activities and locations the IAEA seeks.

In our view, practical steps, such as the ratification of the CTBT and the start of negotiations on an FMCT would be important confidence-building-measures in the regional context.

Thank you.