



eu.2004.fi

Finland's EU Presidency

General Assembly
Sixty-First Session
First Committee
UNITED NATIONS

Explanation of Vote on behalf of the European Union
On the draft resolution
"Declaration of a Fourth Disarmament Decade"

Janne Taalas
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations

New York, 30 October 2006

Madame Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union on draft resolution L.17 entitled "Declaration of a Fourth Disarmament Decade".

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

*) Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Madam Chair,

The European Union has decided to abstain on this resolution L.17.

The EU is a staunch supporter of effective multilateral action in the field of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, as expressed in our Security Strategy, Strategy against Proliferation of WMD and other EU instruments. We wish to contribute to the development of a stronger international community, well-functioning international institutions and a rules-based international order. This entails strengthening the United Nations and equipping it to fulfil its responsibilities and to act effectively. We believe it important that also the work done by the global disarmament machinery addresses effectively the challenges before it. We attach great importance to the revitalisation of the First Committee, among other things by reducing the number of resolutions tabled and by making the resolutions more operational.

We would like to recall that we support the resolution entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament" which will be adopted by the current session of this Committee and the aim of which is to mobilize the attention of the international community in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Madam Chair,

The EU appreciates the intentions and the constructive spirit of the proposal by Sierra Leone, but remains to be convinced of the added value of this year's UNGA setting the agenda for the UNDC session in 2009.

Thank you, Madame Chair.