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**UNITED NATIONS**  
**62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly**  
**First Committee**

**Explanation of vote by**  
**H.E. Ambassador José Júlio Pereira Gomes,**  
**Portugal, on behalf of the European Union**

**On the draft resolution A/C.1/62/L.34**  
**'Prevention of an arms race in outer space'**

**New York, 30 October, 2007**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union on draft resolution L.34 "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space".

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia<sup>1</sup> and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

All EU Members States voted in favour of resolution L.34. The EU recognizes that an arms race in outer space must be prevented given the international community's increased involvement in space-based activities aiming at global development and progress.

We do, however, consider that the resolution's references to and call on the Conference on Disarmament in preambular paragraphs 11 and 17 as well as in the operative paragraph 6 with references to an *ad hoc* committee on PAROS do not take into account the recent developments witnessed in that forum, namely the constructive, structured and substantive discussions that have taken place during the first part of this year's session on all items of the CD agenda and the subsequent presentation of a Presidential Draft Decision on a programme of work (L.1) and two further documents (CRP.5, CRP.6), which all make no reference to the establishment of *ad hoc* committees on any agenda item, but came very close to consensus in the CD. These three documents have fostered our hope that finally the stalemate in the CD could be overcome.

The EU remains open as to the procedural format under which substantive work on the prevention of an arms race in outer space would be undertaken in the CD, but we would have liked to see the resolution supporting the work by the CD membership and its efforts this year to come closer to resuming substantive discussions on this issue.

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<sup>1</sup> Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.