

## **Conference on Disarmament**

**Statement by**

**Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch  
Permanent Representative of Austria  
to the Conference on Disarmament  
on behalf of the European Union**

**FMCT**

**Geneva, 22 May 2006**

**(Check against delivery)**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and the Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania. The EU would like to commend you for the efficient and able manner in which you guided our work throughout your tenure as President of the Conference on Disarmament and in particular during the focussed structured debate on FMCT.

As I have stated previously, the EU attaches a clear priority to the negotiation, in the Conference on Disarmament, of a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices as a means to strengthen nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. We call again for the immediate commencement of negotiations as well as an early conclusion of a non-discriminatory, universally applicable Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, without pre-conditions, and bearing in mind the special co-ordinator's report and the mandate for an ad hoc committee contained therein. Pending entry into force of an FMCT, the EU calls on all States to declare and uphold a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and welcomes the action of those four States which have decreed such moratoria.

The EU welcomes the rich discussions that took place last week on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. We have listened carefully to the statements made and the input provided which helped to inform our deliberations and produced a clearer picture of the issues related to such a treaty. We welcome the large participation of the Member States in the deliberations and the fact that no objection was raised to the principle of an FMCT negotiation. We note with appreciation the participation of a substantial number of experts from a range of countries as well as the submission of various working papers and suggestions, including the documents presented by the United States. The EU notes that the FMCT-mandate proposed by the US is broadly in line with the EU's position on FMCT, stated above, and notes that nothing could be precluded from the negotiations. The EU warmly welcomes the decision of the Conference to invite the IAEA to participate in our deliberations in accordance with Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedures. We are looking forward to profit from the profound expertise the IAEA possesses in this area.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by expressing my sincere hope that the focussed structured debates we have had and we will have during this year will create sufficient momentum to overcome the current deadlock and bring this august body back to substantive work. We encourage the Presidency of the CD to consider quickly and actively how to continue our deliberations on this issue during the remainder of the 2006 session.

I thank you very much.

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