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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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from : Secretariat

to : Coreper/Council

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Subject: Adoption of Council conclusions on implications of the terrorist threat on the non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control policy of the European Union

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1. The Extraordinary European Council on 21 September 2001 adopted conclusions and a plan of action in order to impart the necessary impetus to the European Union's actions to combat terrorism following the events of 11 September 2001. The "road map" (13880/01 POLGEN 31 JAI 141 ECOFIN 326 TRANS 191 RELEX 154) of all the measures and initiatives under the action plan identifies the adjustment of EU policy on non-proliferation and disarmament as one of the objectives to be pursued.
2. The Working Parties on Global Disarmament and Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Conventional Arms Exports have examined the potential implications of terrorism on the non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control policy of the European Union, and have approved the Presidency's proposal for draft Council conclusions on the matter.

3. The draft Council conclusions are intended to emphasise the Council's determination to contribute to the world-wide coalition against terrorism and identify four areas of action: a review and strengthening of relevant multilateral instruments in the field of non-proliferation, disarmament and export control; full implementation of export controls; international cooperation in the field of protection and assistance against the use or threat of chemical and biological weapons; and enhanced political dialogue with third countries in the field of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control. It is to be noted that this exercise will continue at technical experts level with a view to preparing a list of specific measures.
  
4. At its meeting on 27 November 2001 the PSC agreed to advise the Council to adopt the conclusions on implications of the terrorist threat on the non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control policy of the European Union, as set out in the Annex.
  
5. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest that the Council:
  - = adopt, as an "A" item, the draft Council conclusions on implications of the terrorist threat on the non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control policy of the European Union, as set out in the Annex.

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## **Draft Council conclusions on implications of the terrorist threat on the non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control policy of the EU**

Non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control remain an indispensable element of co-operative security between States. They can also make an essential contribution in the global fight against terrorism by reducing the risk of non-state actors gaining access to weapons of mass destruction, radioactive materials and means of delivery as well as by preventing the spread of conventional weapons.

The elimination, reduction or control of certain weapons, their means of delivery and relevant materials according to the relevant bilateral and multilateral instruments as well as national initiatives enforcing this goal, together with their effective national implementation significantly reduces the risk of proliferation to non-state actors. Furthermore, multilateral instruments and regimes for disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation as well as national initiatives enforcing this goal foster confidence between States and enhance security. They thereby contribute to the building and strengthening of the international coalition against terrorism.

In conformity with the Plan of Action approved by the European Council to combat terrorism and the Union's determination to contribute to the global coalition against terrorism, the Council today decides to launch a targeted Initiative to respond effectively to the international threat of terrorism, which focuses on the following elements:

- **Multilateral instruments:** In consistence with their ongoing review process, the Council sees an urgent need to strengthen relevant multilateral instruments in the field of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control with a view to promoting their universalisation and ensuring their effective implementation. The Council shall continue to actively support the international negotiation process to finalise the draft international code of conduct against ballistic missile proliferation.

- Export controls: The Council considers that the EU should focus on concrete measures to strengthen export controls to prevent terrorist groups and States which harbour them from acquiring materials relative to weapons of mass destruction. The Council notes that the full implementation by the Member States of the European Union Code of Conduct on export of military equipment will continue to minimise the risk of any diversion of weapons of European origin to terrorist organisations. The Council sees merit in targeted EU assistance to third countries to help strengthen export control and enforcement.
  
- International cooperation: The Council emphasises the importance of protection and assistance against the use or threat of chemical and biological weapons as well as measures to maintain physical control of nuclear material world-wide. The Council sees merit in sustaining and developing – where needed – assistance to States to eliminate or reduce as foreseen in the relevant treaties existing stocks of weapons of mass destruction, thereby reducing the risk of proliferation to non-state actors.
  
- Political dialogue: The Council decides to enhance the political dialogue with third countries in the field of non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. In this context, the Union will continue to strengthen its partnership with the relevant countries and shall further develop an active dialogue with other countries to promote their support to non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control policies as a means of combating terrorism.

The Council notes that further work continues towards the adoption of a list of concrete measures in the four abovementioned fields.

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