



**COUNCIL OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION**

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**10th ANNIVERSARY OF
THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Royal Institute for International Relations

PALAIS D'EGMONT

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EU-OPCW Cooperation in the framework of the EU WMD Strategy:

Effective multilateralism in practice

***Check against delivery.
Seul le texte délivré fait foi.
Es gilt das gesprochene Wort.***

Mr Chairman, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I. INTRODUCTION

Let me, first of all, **express my appreciation to the Royal Institute for International Relations EGMONT and to his president Viscount (Etienne) Davignon for organising this conference.** The series of events organised this year to mark the 10th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention constitute a unique opportunity to publicise and reflect on the outstanding work carried out by the OPCW since 1997 and they allow for setting up the pace in view of the forthcoming Review Conference next year. Our goal must be a successful Review Conference and the European Union is already working to make its contribution.

II. THE EU NON-PROLIFERATION STRATEGY

Today I intend to present the on-going EU-OPCW Cooperation, cooperation which started in 2005, and which illustrates that important concept which lies at the heart of the EU WMD Strategy and of our Common Foreign and Security Policy: **Effective multilateralism.**

But before entering into the details of this **strong and fruitful cooperation between the EU and the OPCW, which are also celebrating important anniversaries this year,** I would like to refer briefly to the European Security Strategy and the EU WMD Strategy, both adopted by

the European Council in December 2003. These two documents triggered an interest of the European Union to work closely with an organisation such as the OPCW¹.

The European Security Strategy is our strategic concept. It identifies the five major threats to the European Union and to international peace and security: **Terrorism, Proliferation of WMD, Failed states, Regional conflicts and Organised crime.**

In order to define a comprehensive and structured approach to the threat of proliferation of WMD, the European Council adopted, in parallel to the EU Security Strategy, its Strategy against the proliferation of WMD. The approach of the WMD Strategy is based on three principles: **prevention, effective multilateralism and international co-operation.**

↳ **Prevention: Prevention is not pre-emption.** Prevention means that the EU tries to act before the threat becomes reality. Prevention means active engagement in diplomatic solutions to non-proliferation issues. Prevention means try to provide a common assessment of the threat and a common approach to address it. It is therefore strictly linked to effective multilateralism and international cooperation.

↳ **Effective multilateralism: Effective multilateralism consists in strengthening the international non-proliferation system, such as**

¹ Please note that the **European Security Strategy** and the **EU WMD Strategy** as well as many other reference documents can be found at: www.consilium.europa.eu/wmd.

the one based on the Chemical Weapons Convention, but also all other international treaties and international instruments: **strengthening by expansion of membership and ensuring full national compliance.** We are also committed to strengthening the UN system, and within the UN, the UN Security Council.

↪ International cooperation: **Proliferation is a global threat.** Nobody can act successfully alone today. We need to act in concert, together, we need to cooperate. Of course, the EU cooperates with its major partners, the US, Russia, Japan, China. With most of these countries the EU adopted joint non-proliferation statements as well as Joint Programmes of Work. But the EU cooperates also with its neighbours in the Balkans, Africa, with the countries in Asia and Pacific. Cooperation is not limited to the CWC framework, the EU supports in parallel activities in support of BTWC, UNSC Resolution 1540 implementation, as well as implementation of IAEA Additional Protocol and other instruments. All these instruments are mutually reinforcing.

III. EU SUPPORT TO THE OPCW

Since the adoption of the **EU WMD Strategy, in December 2003**, the Council of the European Union has adopted three Joint Actions in support of the OPCW. The first two were adopted respectively in December 2004 and December 2005 and the most recent a couple of months ago (19 March 2007).

A Joint Action is an instrument of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. It allows the Union to take action and allocate financial resources to a specific objective. In financial terms, our support to the OPCW means that since the adoption of the first Joint Action we have allocated around € 5 million ¹ to the OPCW Technical Secretariat to implement projects, originally in the areas of **universalisation, national implementation and international cooperation**. The most recently adopted Joint Action includes projects in new areas to which I will refer to later during my intervention.

This targeted action complements the more political/diplomatic action carried out by the EU Presidency and Member States in the form of *démarches* to individual countries to convince them to ratify the CWC and to implement it fully.

In brief, the EU addresses the challenge posed by proliferation of WMD in a combined manner: using the financial resources at its disposal and exercising political pressure.

I would like now to give you a more detailed overview of what does our support to the OPCW represents in concrete terms.

The first two EU Joint Actions, adopted respectively in December 2004 and in December 2005, have allowed for the organisation of a number of regional seminars for the promotion of universalisation in Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East and the Caribbean, assistance

¹ First Joint Action € 1 699 373 (actually disbursed), Second Joint Action 1 697 000 (financial reference), Third Joint Action €1 700 000 (financial

visits by legal experts to promote national implementation to States Parties in the Caribbean; and the transfer of equipment to laboratories under the supervision of the National Authorities. In 2005 EU support allowed for the provision of office equipment to 50 national authorities and some essential analytical equipment to 8 laboratories engaged in the analysis of chemicals. Five new laboratories will benefit soon from a similar contribution.

Today, thank to the relentless efforts of the OPCW and thank to our support, 15 new States have ratified the CWC, bringing the total number of OPCW Member States up to 182. Only 6 states have signed, but not yet ratified; and only 7 have not signed at all. **The Chemical Weapons Convention is thus approaching universality.**

Just two months ago a third Joint Action was adopted. In preparing it we have taken into account the new circumstances concerning universality and national implementation of the CWC - as a consequence, among other factors, of the results achieved by the two preceding ones - and included new projects in areas such as **assistance and protection, database development, support for industry outreach activities and support for visits to chemical weapons destruction facilities in possessor states.** Besides, this new Joint Action will favour bilateral visits to enhance universality (instead of regional seminars) with a particular focus on Africa, and will continue to finance capacity building projects for national authorities.

reference). Total € 5 096 373.

In connection with the 10th anniversary of the OPCW in 2007, the EU will co-sponsor the **OPCW Industry and Protection Forum to be held in the Hague on 2-3 November 2007**. Industry must be our partner in efforts against proliferation.

All these projects, to which I have referred to, have been defined in close consultation with the **OPCW Technical Secretariat** and with **EU Member States**.

Let's not forget that the EU is also co-financing **CW destruction projects** in Russia, helping this country to meet its obligations under the convention. Under the **G8 Global Partnership**, the EU has contributed to the construction of **CW destruction facilities** in Gorny, Kambarka and Shchuch'ye for a total contribution of **€14.79 million (CFSP funds)**.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The success of our cooperation with the **OPCW** is based on well defined projects with clear objectives and activities and a solid implementing organisation such as the **OPCW**. This organisation celebrates its **10th anniversary**, and stands as a living testimony of effective multilateralism.

Despite the success of the **OPCW** during its first ten years of existence we should remain vigilant. Once universalisation is achieved, the EU will continue to support the full implementation of the **CWC**, an area where important work still needs to be done. The EU is and will provide

assistance, through its Joint Actions, to those OPCW Member States willing to receive specific assistance.

As underlined by the Presidency on behalf of the EU at the latest Meeting of CWC States Parties, the full national implementation of all CWC obligations by all States Parties will make a significant contribution towards enhancing global security and stability, including in the fight against terrorism and this is, after all, our ultimate objective: "A Secure Europe in a Better World".

Thank you
