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**LETTER DATED 29 JULY 2003 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ITALY TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXTS OF
THE DECLARATION ON NON PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION, ADOPTED AT THE THESSALONIKI EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON
20 JUNE 2003**

I would appreciate it if you would kindly have the enclosed issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

The “Declaration on Non Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction” is Annex II of the Presidency Conclusion adopted on the occasion of the Thessaloniki European Council, on 20 June 2003.

This will allow the Italian Delegation to present the above mentioned document during one of the upcoming Sessions of the Conference on Disarmament.

I take this opportunity to convey to you, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration

(Signed):

Carlo Trezza
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to the
Conference on Disarmament

Annex

**DECLARATION ON NON PROLIFERATION OF
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

1. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery such as ballistic missiles is a growing threat to international peace and security. A number of states have sought or are seeking to develop such weapons. The risk that terrorists will acquire chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials adds a new dimension to this threat.

2. The European Union cannot ignore these dangers. WMD and missile proliferation puts at risk the security of our states, our peoples and our interests around the world. Meeting this challenge must be a central element in the EU external action, including the common foreign and security policy. Our objective is to deter, halt and, where possible, reverse proliferation programmes of concern worldwide.

3. Drawing on the Basic Principles already established, we are committed to further elaborate before the end of the year a coherent EU strategy to address the threat of proliferation, and to continue to develop and implement the EU Action Plan as a matter of priority. Our starting point will be a comprehensive and regularly updated threat analysis. Our approach will be guided by our commitment to uphold and implement the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements; our support for the multilateral institutions charged respectively with verification and upholding of compliance with these treaties; our commitment to strong national and internationally-coordinated export controls; and our commitment to co-operate with the United States and other partners who share our objectives. We recognise that appropriate steps towards the goal of general and complete disarmament can contribute to furthering non-proliferation objectives; and we are determined to play our part in addressing the problems of regional instability and insecurity and the situations of conflict which lie behind many weapons programmes, recognising that instability does not occur in a vacuum.

4. We have a wide range of instruments available: multilateral treaties and verification mechanisms; national and internationally-coordinated export controls; co-operative threat reduction programmes; political and economic levers; interdiction of illegal procurement activities; and, as a last resort, coercive measures in accordance with the UN Charter. While all are necessary, none is sufficient in itself. We need to strengthen them all, and deploy those which are most effective in each case.

5. The European Union has special strengths and experience to bring to this collective effort. In further implementing our Action Plan, we will focus in particular on:

- universalising further the key disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, agreements and arrangements, and where necessary strengthening them, and in particular the means of ensuring compliance with their provisions. We emphasise that full compliance lies at the core of the co-operative approach to collective security and is a pre-condition for international stability and security;

- enhancing our political, financial and technical support for agencies in charge of verification. In particular, we are determined to bring into force our IAEA Additional Protocols before the end of 2003;
- fostering the role of the UN Security Council, and enhancing its expertise in meeting the challenge of proliferation;
- strengthening export control policies and practices within the European Union and beyond, in co-ordination with Partners;
- strengthening identification, control and interception of illegal shipments, including national criminal sanctions against those who contribute to illicit procurement efforts;
- enhancing the security of proliferation-sensitive materials, equipment and expertise in the European Union against unauthorised access and risks of diversion;
- reinforcing EU co-operative threat reduction programmes with third countries, targeted at support for disarmament, control and security of sensitive materials, facilities and expertise;
- ways to deploy the EU's political, diplomatic and economic influence most effectively in support of our non-proliferation objectives. EU economic cooperation or development assistance with third countries should take account of WMD proliferation concerns;
- setting up a unit within the Council Secretariat, which would function as a monitoring centre, entrusted with the monitoring of the consistent implementation of the Action Plan and the collection of information and intelligence.

6. We request the Council, as a matter of urgency, to take forward this work, on the basis of the Action Plan and drawing on the Basic Principles agreed on 16 June.
