Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Statement made by Spain on 15 April 2002 on behalf of the European Union

1. The attacks of 11 September 2001 have proved to the world, if need be, that international security is indivisible. No State on its own can keep its territory or people safe from the scourge of terrorists, terrorist groups or the menace of their access to weapons of mass destruction.

2. On 21 September 2001, the European Council declared that terrorism was a real challenge to the world and to Europe and that the fight against terrorism would be a priority objective of the European Union.

3. The security and the stability of the international community are being challenged, both globally and regionally, by the risks brought about by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

4. In order to contribute to the fight against terrorism, on 10 December 2001, the Foreign Ministers of the European Union (EU) launched a targeted initiative to respond effectively in the field of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control to the international threat of terrorism, and they identified four areas of action to this end.

- 5. These areas are:
 - A review and strengthening of relevant multilateral instruments in the field of non-proliferation, disarmament and export control, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in order to promote their universalization and their effective implementation
 - Full implementation of export controls
 - International cooperation in the field of protection and assistance against the use or threat of chemical and biological weapons
 - Enhanced political dialogue with third countries in the field of nonproliferation, disarmament and arms control

6. As announced in the EU statement during the general debate, the Council of the European Union adopted today a list of concrete measures in each of these four areas. The list is contained in the annex to the present statement.

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7. Among these measures are the promotion of the full implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and of the Final Documents of the 2000 and 1995 Review Conferences as well as an assessment of the appropriate ways of improving the existent export control mechanisms, including the Zangger Committee.

8. With the adoption and implementation of these measures the European Union believes it will make a necessary contribution to the worldwide fight against terrorism and towards the elimination of a dangerous threat to international peace and security.

Annex

Council conclusions on a list of concrete measures with regard to the implications of the terrorist threat for the nonproliferation, disarmament and arms control policy of the European Union

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