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ACRONYM CONOP CODUN COACD
SUBJECT CONOP CODUN COACD - COARM - Meeting of the Non-Proliferation,
Disarmament and Arms Control Working Groups at Director level - Brussels, 17
December 2012 - Report
TEXT

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***Deadline of the silence procedure for the operational conclusions: Friday 21 December 2012
CoB***

**1. EU Priorities in the Non-Proliferation, Disarmament and Arms Control Field in 2013 -
Work Programme CONOP, CODUN, COARM for 2013**

The EEAS provided a brief outline of the annual Work Programmes for the CONOP, CODUN and COARM Working Groups. Directors welcomed the suggested outline and discussed the priorities for 2013.

In general terms, they referred to the need for the EU activities to be action-oriented, to provide added value and enhance synergies also with Member States actions, while respecting the respective EU and MS competences, to improve EU visibility, step up engagement with emerging powers, including through targeted messages by EU Delegations. It was also suggested to assess the impact of EU action in the implementation of the EU WMD strategy and to include this in the periodic reports. As to topics meriting special attention, delegations raised i.a. regional proliferation cases, ballistic missile proliferation, support to IAEA and OPCW activities and to the Ottawa Convention on land mines. Some delegations suggested further assessment of the appropriate EU role as regards possible FMCT pre-negotiation activities.

Delegations were invited to provide further comments in writing by 7 January 2013. Member States' comments will be reflected in the updated version to be issued in January 2013 for final examination in the Working Groups.

2. 2nd NPT PrepCom 2013 (EU initiatives and priorities) including WMDFZ in the Middle East

Directors had an exchange of views on how the EU could best contribute to the 2nd NPT Preparatory Commission meeting (Geneva, 22 April - 3 May 2013). They discussed the implementation of the Action plan agreed upon during the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the prospects for the 2nd PrepCom and provided input to the further work of CONOP in the matter. Directors agreed that the EU Common Position for the 2010 NPT Review Conference

(2010/212/CFSP of 29 March 2010) continues to be valid. Directors also discussed the state-of-play and the possible role and activities from the EU to pursue in support of the further process towards a WMD Free Zone in the Middle East, following the postponement of the Helsinki Conference. MS expressed their continued support for the Facilitator's efforts regarding the Conference.

3. Arms Trade Treaty: preparation for the final UN Conference on 18-28 March 2013

Directors had an exchange of views on preparations for the March 2013 ATT Conference. Agreement was reached on the importance of focusing EU and Member States' diplomatic efforts to address a limited number of outstanding issues in the draft treaty text of 26 July 2012, while defending its main approach. COARM was tasked to continue to coordinate EU Member States efforts to this end.

Directors also agreed on the importance of continuing to conduct targeted outreach vis-à-vis third countries to promote EU priorities for the March 2013 Conference **DELETED**.

Directors agreed on the importance of ensuring compatibility between the EU *acquis* and the ATT. It was noted that the question of an EU negotiating mandate for the March 2013 Conference should be solved as soon as possible and in a pragmatic manner, and that efforts should concentrate on the overall strategy and tactics to ensure a successful outcome at the March 2013 Conference.

4. Proliferation risks in and from Syria – follow-up to the informal meeting of the EU Security Policy Directors in Limassol

Directors had a further exchange of views after the initial discussion held in Limassol on 24 October 2012. Stemming from a shared and general expression of concern on the proliferation risks relating to Syria, the discussion focussed on chemical weapons but also noting the similar concern regarding conventional arms (e.g. MANPADs).

Directors:

- welcomed the initial thinking and broad orientations indicated by the EEAS,
- reiterated the key importance of close coordination with all actors on this issue,
- looked forward to further information on the options for EU action in order to support a more detailed discussion in the appropriate fora.

Member States were encouraged to continue sharing information on their plans as regards Syria.

5. Code of Conduct for Outer Space- update on developments

Directors had an exchange of views on the International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities and agreed on the way ahead proposed by the EEAS (CODUN meeting docs. 69/12 and 70/12) **DELETED**. All agreed that this initiative was coming to a turning point and that support in its promotion would be needed both by Member States and like-minded third

countries. The EEAS reiterated its call for a Seconded National Expert to support these negotiations.

6. Preparation for the EU27-US Dialogue on Verification and Compliance

Directors had a brief exchange of views on the EU27-US Verification and Compliance dialogue, and took note of delegations' intentions to intervene at the dialogue meeting.

7. Any other Business

Some delegations noted the need to look into the working methods in terms of the frequency and length of meetings in the non-proliferation sector, both regular ones and those at Director level.

NL announced its intention to brief MS via coreu on the state of play with regard to the preparations for the Nuclear Security Summit 2014.

DELETED referred to its coreu **DELETED**/0286/12 with regard to the "New lines of Action" expiring in 2012, suggesting a follow-up in the appropriate Working Group.

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