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**Dov LYNCH**

REPORT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE  
Strasbourg 20-21, November 2003

*The Global Partnership against the Spread of  
Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction*

***Objectives***

The objective of the Conference was to raise the knowledge and sensitivity of members of the European Parliament and national parliaments to support the non-proliferation of materials, technologies and weapons of mass destruction.

This Conference was designed to inform Members of Parliaments of the bilateral and multilateral co-operative threat reduction programmes that are ongoing, most of them within the framework of the G8 Global Partnership.

The aim was to launch a process whereby the Members of Parliaments would continue to be regularly informed and discuss the evolution of programmes, in order for them to decide, on an informed basis, on budgets for further actions.

***Participants***

Close to two hundred people came to the Conference from members of the European Parliament, national parliaments of the countries having declared their willingness to contribute to the G8 Global Partnership, EU member states and candidates, and also Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. A limited number of International Organisations were invited, such as the ISTC and STCU, IAEA, OPCW, and EBRD.

The EU Institute participated as a member of the Consortium led by the Washington-based think tank, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, that brings together some twenty-one European and international research institutes to strengthen the G8 Global Partnership. EU ISS assumed the travel and accommodation costs of half of the academics invited to the conference.

AGENDA

1. Background

The end of the Cold War, and the associated disarmament process, has increased the importance of non proliferation of materials, technologies and weapons of mass destruction. Between 1992 and 2001, the US has committed on the order of 7 billion USD for its non-proliferation and threat reduction programmes, covering several areas of disarmament and non proliferation in Russia and other former Soviet states. Europe, both through projects of EU Member States or through European Community programmes, and Japan, have, over the same period, also initiated actions; nevertheless at a lower level of financial contribution.

At the end of 1999, the European Union launched, in the frame of its Common Foreign and Security Policy, a Joint Action for non proliferation and disarmament of WMD in the Russian Federation. The main goal is to foster co-ordination at EU level and with other main players in the field. Two NDCI (Non proliferation and Disarmament Co-operation Initiative) Conferences, assembling governmental experts of 40 countries and 9 international organisations, have taken place in Brussels, in 2001 and 2002, to exchange information on the scope and implementation of programmes.

The dramatic events of the 11 September 2001 have added a new dimension to the threat associated with materials, technologies and weapons of mass destruction : the risk of diversion by non state actors. It has increased the focus and importance of the co-operative programmes fostering the securing and/or rapid elimination of weapons or materials.

This resulted in the major initiative taken by the G8 Leaders in June 2002 at the Kananaskis Summit in Canada, called the G8 Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction. The raising of up to 20 billion USD, over the next ten years, has been committed by the Leaders, coupled with a set of non proliferation principles and guidelines for the effective implementation of programmes. The Evian Summit, in June 2003, took note of the progress, confirmed the importance to keep pace, drafted an Action Plan and started outreach activities to involve countries beyond the G8 into the endeavour.

2. Purpose of the Conference

While the topic is a priority subject of discussion within the US Government and the Congress, it has been, until very recently, less the case on the European side, in particular at the level of the EU Member States National Parliaments and the European Parliament. Co-operative threat reduction is nevertheless of vital importance for the security of our societies and therefore deserves awareness and attention by the Representatives of the People. Even more so today, since the topic of non proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction has recently received more attention by the European Council, as shown at the EU Council Meeting in Thessaloniki.

This Conference is organised to inform Members of Parliaments of the diverse bilateral and multilateral co-operative threat reduction programmes which are ongoing, most of them within the framework of the G8 Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction.

The Conference should be the launch of a process whereby the Members of Parliaments would continue to be regularly informed and further discuss the evolution of programmes, in order for them to play their roles in deciding, on an informed basis, on budgets for further actions.

### 3. Participation

Members of the European Parliament, the National Parliaments of the Countries having declared their willingness to contribute to the G8 Global Partnership, the EU Member States and Candidates, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Ukraine and Kazakhstan have been invited to attend the Conference.

Selected Think Tanks/NGOs were also invited to participate to provide their views on the existing programmes and further needs. Use will be made of the CSIS Network of Think Tanks who already made an in-depth analysis of the challenges associated with the G8 Global Partnership (IISS Seminar in London on the 20 January 2003).

A limited number of International Organisations were invited : ISTC and STCU, IAEA, OPCW, EBRD.

### 4. Organisation

The Conference takes place in Strasbourg, France, at the European Parliament.

The dates are the Thursday/Friday 20/21 November 2003 (end of a week of Session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg - ending on the Thursday at noon). The Delegates are invited for a dinner on the Thursday evening to foster the informal discussions. Senator Nunn accepted to make a keynote speech during the dinner. Governmental and Think Tanks experts will animate these informal discussions.

During the Conference, diverse presentations will be made to provide a global picture of the challenges, the state of play of programmes and the future perspectives. The speakers will be organised in Panels, under the lead of Chairpersons from the European or National Parliaments. Questions/answer sessions will be foreseen to provide ample time for reactions and participation by the audience.

### 5. Financial Support

The European Parliament, host of the Conference, provides the room.

The European Commission offers the interpretation costs.

The other costs of the Conference, as well as the organisational work, are born by the European Union Joint Action on non proliferation and disarmament in the Russian Federation, financed by the CFSP Community Budget Line and implemented by the European Commission.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### **AUSTRIA**

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### **BULGARIA**

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### **CANADA**

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