

# 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## European Union support for the Comprehensive Nuclear- Test-Ban Treaty and its verification regime\*

### Working paper submitted by the European Union

1. The

entry into force of the Treaty remains a top priority for the European Union.

2. The importance and urgency of the signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions and in accordance with constitutional processes, to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), is the first of the 13 practical steps agreed upon already at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for systematic and progressive efforts to achieve complete disarmament, and reiterated during the 2010 Review Conference.

3. Actions no. 10 to 14 of the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan confirm the importance of the signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, upholding the moratoria on nuclear-weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, refraining from any action that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, recognising the contribution of the Conferences on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty to the progress made towards the entry into force, promoting the entry into force and implementation of the Treaty at the national, regional and global levels, and encouraging the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO to fully develop the verification regime for the CTBTO.

4. Since the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was opened for signature in 1996, 183 States have signed and 164 have ratified the Treaty. Of the 44 Annex 2 States required to ratify to achieve the entry into force of the Treaty, 36 have done so. All the Member States of the European Union have demonstrated their commitment to the Treaty by ratifying it and by applying provisionally its Basic Obligations as stated in Article I. They furthermore supported the Joint Ministerial Statements resulting from the biennial Friends of the CTBT Ministerial meetings in 2012 and 2014, and the Final Declarations of Article XIV Conferences in 2011 and 2013.

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‡The provision of extended technical support to selected National Data Centres (EU Council Decision V).

8. The European Union and its Member States are currently considering an additional Council Decision to provide financial support to the Organisation beyond 2015.

9. The European Union attaches utmost importance to completing and maintaining a credible and operational verification regime for the Comprehensive Nuclear-

