EU joint reply to the UNODA request related to
UNGA Resolution 70/36 on Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass
destruction

The EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, as well as the European Security Strategy (2003) and the EU Strategy against proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2003), the EU Counter Terrorism Strategy (2005) and the New Lines for Action in combating the proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems (2008, 2013) all together reinforce the EU’s commitment to preventing terrorists from acquiring nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic missiles materials, technical know-how and technology. The EU and its Member States attach great importance to non-proliferation, including the issue of efficient export controls as demonstrated by our commitment to UN Security Council Resolutions 1540, 1887 and 1977. In line with Resolution 1540 of the United Nations Security Council and its WMD Strategy, the EU requires the insertion of non-proliferation clauses in agreements with third countries.

The accession of Euratom to the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) was approved by the Council in 2007. All EU Member States and Euratom have ratified the CPPNM and have adhered to the Amendment to the Convention. In addition, in accordance with our policy of promoting the universalization and effective implementation of international treaties and agreements, in 2016 the EU and its Member States conducted diplomatic outreach in support of the entry into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM contributing to its entry into force on 8 May 2016.

Consistent with the longstanding and significant support provided by the EU and its Member States to global nuclear security efforts, we fully support the key role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We are actively participating in the preparations for the next IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security in December 2016.

Similarly, the EU and its Member States contributed and will continue to contribute actively to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and other initiatives such as the 1540 Committee, the Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction, the Nuclear Security Summit process and the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV), which improve the security of nuclear material and strengthen nuclear security culture. The EU and its Member States attach utmost importance and is actively working in the areas of nuclear detection and response mechanisms, including nuclear forensics. We also cooperate with Interpol in the implementation of Interpol’s projects in this field.
As to UNSC Resolution 1540, the EU and its Member States have been staunch supporters of its robust and effective implementation. In this context, we are making a substantial contribution to the UNSCR 1540 review process, notably: an EU report to the 1540 Committee, including recommendations for the future development of the Resolution, demarches to non-reporting States aimed at improving the overall reporting rate and a new Council Decision in support of UNSCR 1540 which is under discussion and is expected to be adopted in the second half of 2016.

The EU and its Member States continue to fund numerous projects in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and are actively involved in the preparations of the Eighth Review Conference to be held in November this year. A Council Decision laying down the EU’s common position and priorities for the Eighth Review Conference has been adopted. Moreover, on 18 January 2016 a separate Council Decision was also adopted to provide financial support amounting to 2,6 million euros for BTWC related activities to be implemented over the next 3-year period in the following areas: promotion of universal adherence, enhancement of interaction with non-governmental stakeholders on Science and Technology and Biosafety & Biosecurity, development of national capacities for BTWC implementation, support for the intersessional programme and the preparations for the Eighth Review Conference and strengthening of the UN Secretary-General’s Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical, Biological and Toxin Weapons.

As for chemical weapons, EU Member States account for 40% of the amount spent by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on disarmament and non-proliferation projects worldwide by means of their annual assessed contributions. A Council Decision providing for an overall funding of 4,6 million euros in support of UNSC Resolution 2235 was adopted in November 2015. This comes on top of 12,5 million euros provided by the EU since 2005 to support OPCW core activities, as well as 17 million euros related to the destruction of Syria’s declared chemical weapons.

The EU and its Member States are deeply involved in efforts to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles especially through Council Decisions in support of the Hague Code of Conduct against the proliferation of ballistic missiles and UNSCR 1540, as well as through its instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (Centres of Excellence).

The EU and its Member States have been continuously implementing the 2009 CBRN Action Plan. It is based on the all-hazards approach and contains 124 actions covering prevention, protection, detection and response. The CBRN Action Plan contributes inter alia to the implementation of the EU Counter Terrorism Strategy as well as the Internal Security Strategy. The European Commission has undertaken
to facilitate practical cooperation for the detection and mitigation of CBRN-E risks at EU level, including working with the industry, operators of facilities handling CBRN-E materials (equipment manufacturers and security services providers) and other stakeholders. Concrete tools will be developed, ranging from guidance materials, training and awareness building, and testing activities. Outside its border, the EU is implementing the CBRN-E Centres of excellence initiative in 8 regions in the world involving 55 countries. The initiative aims at building training and equipment capacities to mitigate risks and threats related to CBRN disasters. Within the framework of the initiative, the partner countries develop their Need Assessments as well as their National CBRN Action Plans. So far the EU has funded about 60 CBRN regional projects dealing mainly with border management, counter-terrorism, maritime security, protection of critical infrastructures, consequent management. Developing links with NATO and UN peacekeeping operations is a priority.

EUROPOL has conducted several activities that are aimed at assisting EU Member States with developing their capacity to prevent, and respond to, CBRN incidents. Under the Seventh Framework Security Research Programme (2007-2013) of the European Commission, a part of the funding is allocated to R&D projects in the field of CBRN security.

The Border Monitoring Working Group, created in 2006 between the US, the EU and the IAEA, has been working on the implementation of joint projects in which united efforts are undertaken in the specific area of nuclear detection, aiming at effectively combating illicit nuclear trafficking, terrorism and proliferation. International cooperation in nuclear forensics is of utmost importance and the European Commission has been co-chairing the International Technical Working Group in Nuclear Forensics since its foundation in 1995.