



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS

Geneva, 14 - 18 January 2008

Statement by

**H.E. Ambassador Andrej Logar
Permanent Representative of Slovenia
to the Conference on Disarmament
on behalf of European Union**

Closing Statement

Geneva, 18 January 2008

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Mr. Chairman

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

1. The European Union (EU) would like to express its gratitude and deep appreciation for the skilful and efficient manner in which you steered our work during this week. We also wish to commend all delegations for engaging very actively and constructively. Their statements and proposals provided an excellent basis for our work. The EU feels encouraged by the fact that the CCW GGE has actually started implementing its negotiation mandate and already produced result on which to build upon during the next session.

2. At the outset of this meeting, the EU declared in its opening statement that "the January meeting of the GGE should focus on definitions." We are satisfied that many delegations shared the same view and that this convergence of views made it possible to conduct serious work on definitions. The EU is particularly grateful to the chairman of the group of military and technical experts major General Fynbo and the Russian General Lieutenant Vladimir Mikheev who chaired the informal drafting group on definitions. We commend them for leading the work in a fruitful manner, taking into consideration the proposals submitted by delegations, and eventually producing a consolidated draft proposal, which the EU considers as a first important and encouraging step towards agreed definitions.

3. The EU is pleased to note that the CCW has confirmed to be a dynamic instrument and has recognized the urgent need to be responsive to new humanitarian and technical challenges.

4. At this point, Mr Chairman, let me comment on other issues contained in your draft report of the work of the GGE.

The European Union particularly welcomes the decision of the GGE to convene a second meeting in early April (7-11) and is looking forward to taking an active part in the second phase of negotiations. The April meeting will give the CCW an opportunity to maintain the momentum and to take our work forward before it meets again in July. We will work hard between now and April to prepare for these forthcoming meetings and we would encourage you, Mr Chairman, and other delegations to engage further in inter-sessional consultations.

5. The EU believes that at the next meeting the GGE should focus its work according to its mandate on the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions.



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We hope that the April meeting will see further progress on definitions and scope, prohibition on the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of those cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians, the rules for the protection of civilians, as well as on other possible concrete elements of the future protocol, *inter alia*:

- Clearance,
- Stockpiles destruction,
- Transition arrangements,
- Victim Assistance
- International cooperation and assistance,
- There should also be a clear connection to Protocol V on clearance and to other provisions of the international humanitarian law.

We are convinced that we can make good progress in these areas as well.

6. Mr. Chairman, let me also praise the work of your colleagues, as well as that of the Secretariat, conference services and the interpreters. Your tireless efforts have engaged us in real negotiations that have served to reinforce the credibility of the CCW. We hope that you will continue to guide us towards our joint goal that is to negotiate a legally binding instrument that addresses the humanitarian concerns on cluster munitions in all their aspects by the end of the year 2008. The European Union will certainly continue to offer you its full support throughout the year.

The EU would also like to encourage you to prepare a substantial document, which will serve as a basis for further work of the GGE in April and July.

7. Finally, the European Union would like to reiterate once again that its aim is to conclude a legally binding instrument that prohibits the use, production, transfer and stock-piling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians, which would include provisions on cooperation and assistance.

The EU hopes that the excellent spirit that prevailed during this week will continue to inspire our work during the April session and beyond. The EU will spare no effort to ensure that the GGE will fulfil its mandate by November 2008.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman