

## For more information

### ***The EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction***

The EU Strategy against the proliferation of WMDs was adopted by the European Council on 12 December 2003, in parallel with the European Security Strategy. EU priorities in this area are:

- ✓ strengthening the international non-proliferation framework
- ✓ pursuing universalisation of multilateral agreements
- ✓ reinforcing the strict implementation of and compliance with these agreements
- ✓ cooperating closely with key partners;
- ✓ assistance to third countries

### ***The Foundation for Strategic Research***

The Foundation for Strategic Research, based in Paris, implements EU Council Decisions on a technical level under the aegis of the High Representative for the Common and Foreign Security Policy. This project is conducted in support of the Presidency and in close consultation with the Chair of the Annual Meetings of the Subscribing States to the Code as well as with Austria in its capacity as Immediate Central Contact (ICC)/Executive Secretariat of the Code.

***This programme is implemented by the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission***

“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States which have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, throughout 50 years of progressive enlargement, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.

**The European Commission  
is the EU's executive body.**



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The European Union's Strategy against the proliferation of WMD

# The Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation (HCoC)

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## The Code

The objective of the HCoC is to prevent and curb the proliferation of ballistic missiles systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction and related technologies. Although non-binding, the Code is the only universal instrument addressing this issue today. Multilateral instrument of political nature, it proposes a set of transparency and confidence-building measures. Subscribing States are committed not to proliferate ballistic missiles and to exercise the maximum degree of restraint possible regarding the development, the testing and the deployment of these systems.

The Code mostly aims at increasing transparency among Subscribing States and promoting confidence through annual declarations on their ballistic missile policy, as well as pre-launch notifications of missile and space launches. As such, it does not prohibit any categories of weapons. More importantly, it is perfectly compatible with ambitious programmes regarding the peaceful use of outer space.

As agreed by the conference in The Hague, Austria serves as the Immediate Central Contact (Executive Secretariat) which coordinates the information exchange among the HCoC Subscribing States. Conferences of Subscribing States are organised every year in Vienna.

## EU's objectives regarding the Code

Since 2003, the Council of the European Union has been undertaking activities which aim at promoting the implementation of the Code, contributing to its universal subscription, and offering a platform for conducting discussions on how to further enhance multilateral efforts against missile proliferation. This commitment was renewed by Decision 2014/913/CFSP of 2014 and is made up of two projects.

### *Information and communication*

To promote the universality of the Code, support its implementation and reinforce its visibility, the EU supports the diffusion of communication documents presenting the Code alongside the updating of the official HCoC website.

### *Strengthening the non-proliferation of ballistic missiles*

The European Union encourages debate on new initiatives to strengthen the Code and foster ballistic missile non-proliferation. It supports the publication of food-for-thought papers dealing with general issues linked to ballistic proliferation, confidence-building measures or more precise matters like exports controls and the links between HCoC and the MTRC.

### *The HCoC's universalisation – Outreach activities*

139 countries subscribe to the HCoC, but some key players in the field of ballistic and space technologies have still not signed it. The European Union organises numerous workshops and seminars to raise awareness at the international, regional and national level about the Code and promotes its universality. The EU wishes to engage in particular with States possessing ballistic missile capabilities.

In this framework, the European Union also endeavours to raise the profile of missile proliferation as a strategic challenge for the international community and to favour discussion on further efforts to curb it.

