

b) Supporting the implementation of the Code

The European Union wishes to contribute to implement confidence-building measures, by promoting regular exchange of information among subscribing States. The EU will propose to Subscribing States an electronic internet-based and secure system, which could facilitate the exchange of information among Subscribing States. The EU will also invite Subscribing States to visit a European space-launching site.

c) Promoting further enhancement of the Code.

The European Union encourages an in-depth discussion among Subscribing and non-Subscribing States in a more informal setting on how to enhance the fight against missile proliferation. The outcomes of the project could be submitted as a food-for thought paper at the Annual Meeting of Subscribing States.

THE FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH

The Foundation for Strategic Research based in Paris implements the EU Council Decision on the technical level and under the control of the High Representative for the Common and Foreign Security Policy, 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.

www.consilium.europa.eu/wmd



Source: NASA.

**European Union
support for
the Hague Code
of Conduct against
Ballistic Missile
Proliferation**

QC-80-09-581-EN-D

Source: DoD

April 2009



THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND THE HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT AGAINST BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION

The European Union has been concerned about increasing proliferation of missile programs in several regions of the world which may be symptomatic of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) proliferation.

The EU supports multilateral as well as regional solutions which can contribute to curbing proliferation of missiles and other WMD means of delivery. Therefore, the EU Member States engaged in the preparation of the Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation, which was open for the subscription by all UN Member States at the conference in The Hague in 2002. All EU Member States subscribed to the Code and are implementing it in a good faith.

The objective of the HCoC is to prevent and to curb the proliferation of ballistic missiles systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction and related technologies. The Code, a multilateral instrument of political nature, proposes a set of transparency and confidence building measures. Subscribing States committed politically not to proliferate ballistic missiles and to exercise maximum possible restraint regarding the development, the testing and the deployment of missiles. States are also invited to reduce national holdings of such missiles, in the interest of global and regional peace and security.

The HCoC does not prohibit states from owning ballistic missiles nor from benefiting from the peaceful use of outer space. A core aspect of the Code is to increase transparency among Subscribing States and to promote confidence through annual declarations and pre-launch notifications of missile and space launches.



Annual Declarations

Subscribing States committed to submit annual declaration which includes their policies regarding ballistic missiles, information about their launch test sites, and provide annual information on the number and generic class of Ballistic Missiles launched during the preceding year. Concerning Space Launch Vehicle programmes, States are invited to provide an outline of their Space Launch Vehicle policies and land (test-) launch sites and provide the number and generic class of Space Launch Vehicles launched during the preceding year, consistent with commercial and economic confidentiality principles. States could consider, on a voluntary basis, inviting international observers to their land (test-) launch sites.

Pre-launch notifications

Subscribing States exchange pre-launch notifications on their Ballistic Missiles and Space Launch Vehicle launches and test flights. These notifications should include such information as the generic class of the Ballistic Missile or Space Launch Vehicle, the planned launch notification window, the launch area and the planned direction.

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.



EUROPEAN UNION (EU) SUPPORT FOR THE HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT AGAINST BALLISTIC MISSILES PROLIFERATION

While the EU Member States recognise that the Code of conduct does not address the proliferation of missiles and other WMD means of delivery comprehensively, the Council of the European Union has decided in December 2008 to undertake activities which could promote the implementation of the Code, contribute to its universal subscription, and offer a platform for conducting discussions on how to further enhance multilateral efforts against missile proliferation.

a) Promoting the universality of the Code

About two-third of the UN Member States subscribe to the HCoC. The European Union will organise workshops to raise awareness at the regional level about the Code and will promote its universality. The EU wishes to engage in particular with States having ballistic missiles capabilities.

Source: Florian.

