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DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR PES PRESIDENCY
Anti-missile system in Europe; time for a real Transatlantic debate

The PES Presidency has gathered on May 3rd 2007 and has expressed concerns regarding the request made by the United States on a bilateral basis to Poland and the Czech Republic to deploy components of an anti-missile shield on their National territory to counter threats from so-called "rogue states".

The new international context gives great importance to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and the PES is convinced that the international community should give common answers to prevent the threat posed by weapons proliferation, arms race and the destabilisation of regional or international balances of power. A full commitment by all parties concerned is essential to reach the goal of nuclear disarmament and the respect of international agreements such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The PES is concerned about the risks raised by the US plans to proceed with a missile defence program in Europe by 2011-2012. We should avoid creating division and weakening the international non-proliferation efforts.

We should join all efforts to avoid a new arms race in Europe or tensions with other nuclear powers. Therefore, proper consultation with Russia and exchanges of information is a must, including regarding the future of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that is set to expire in 2009.

The PES calls on the US Administration to reconsider the unilateral approach to missile defence and to engage firmly in a multilateral approach to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Priority should be given to a joint solution to the rising problems of non-proliferation in order to strengthen the credibility of the international community and to enhance global security.

The PES calls on the US Administration to engage in a new dialogue and consultation with the EU and within NATO. We must avoid a division between the European Union and the United States in a crucial issue such as non-proliferation. It is in our common interest to invest in enduring stability and long-term security.

