



Anti-missile system in Europe: time for a real Transatlantic debate
Resolution adopted by PES Presidency on 03 May 2007

The PES Presidency has gathered on May 3rd 2007 and discussed 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 states that are pursuing WMD programmes.

The PES is convinced that the international community should establish a unified position in order to prevent the threat posed by weapons proliferation, arms race and destabilisation of regional or international balances of power and support political and diplomatic efforts to ensure the prevention of WMD proliferation. The new international context gives great importance to conflict prevention policy and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). 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 and exchanges of relevant information with Russia 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 and all involved parties;

- to engage in a new dialogue and consultation with the EU and within NATO.
- to pursue a constructive dialogue with Russia to present the planned missile defence system;
- to engage firmly in a multilateral approach with all the relevant states and organisations in Europe and worldwide concerning the future of the missile defence and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The PES supports to hold an EU-level debate on the subject, due to the far-reaching consequences and the implications for the CFSP. Priority should be given to a joint solution to the rising problems of non-proliferation, within the context of the Common Foreign, Security and Defence Policy, in order to strengthen the credibility of the international community, to avoid unilateral actions, and to enhance global security.

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.

