



European Security and Defence Assembly Assembly of Western European Union

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Assembly urges China to support sanctions against North Korea

Paris, 1 December 2010 – On Wednesday the European Security and Defence Assembly (ESDA) called for China to support UN sanctions against North Korea and to “use its influence” to persuade Pyongyang to return to the negotiating table and abandon its nuclear programme.

Submitting a report on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missile defence and Europe’s security on behalf of the Political Committee, **Mr Johannes PFLUG** (Germany, Socialist Group) underlined that the recent violence between North Korea and South Korea, which was the worst in more than 50 years, was “of extreme concern”, adding that “the deadly bombing of the island of Yeongpyeong by North Korea was a clear provocation which further destabilised the region”. Concerned by the fact that North Korea had revealed the existence of a new uranium enrichment facility and showed no intention of putting a stop to its ballistic and nuclear programmes, the Assembly called on the EU to support the United States and China in their efforts to return the Korean Peninsula to calm. It also urged China to “support the sanctions called for by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874”.

The Rapporteur noted that the situation in Iran remained “unchanged” in spite of the wide range of UN sanctions to pressure the country into giving up its nuclear programme. Noting that uranium enrichment activities continued in Iran, the Assembly recommends preparing for “the imposition of more stringent sanctions” than those foreseen by Security Council Resolution 1929 in order to oblige Iran “to comply with its international obligations and offer proof of the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme”.

In Mr PFLUG’s view, the “greatest threat of nuclear war” lay in the tensions between India and Pakistan, with both countries “locked into an arms race” and believing that “war between them is inevitable”. In addition to Pakistan’s “discontent” over the United States-India nuclear deal, Mr PFLUG said there were fears over “the rise of extremist activities in Pakistan over the past two years” which raised concerns “about the safety of the country’s nuclear weapons”. One could not “rule out the danger that the extremists will take over”.

Finally, the Assembly called for the dialogue launched by the United States on the Phased Adaptive Approach missile defence shield to continue to fully involve both NATO and Russia to ensure a high level of transparency and trust among all parties. “Noting that the EU has to date shied away from a general discussion on missile defence”, the Assembly recommends launching “a Europe-wide debate on missile defence with a view to developing a missile defence concept in cooperation with both NATO and Russia”.

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