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LIMITE

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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, its inter-sessional programme and the preparations for its Tenth Review Conference

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2025/...

of ...

**in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention,
its inter-sessional programme and the preparations
for its Tenth Review Conference**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 28(1) and 31(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 12 December 2003, the European Council adopted the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (the 'EU Strategy').
- (2) The Union is actively implementing the EU Strategy and giving effect to the measures listed in Chapter III thereof, in particular those measures related to the reinforcement, implementation and universalisation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).
- (3) The 2022 Strategic Compass for Security and Defence refers to the persistent threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and expresses the Union's objective of reinforcing concrete actions in support of the goals of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

- (4) Within the framework of the EU Strategy, the Council has adopted in support of the BTWC Council Joint Actions 2006/184/CFSP¹ and 2008/858/CFSP² and Council Decisions 2012/421/CFSP³, (CFSP) 2016/51⁴, (CFSP) 2019/97⁵, (CFSP) 2021/2033⁶, (CFSP) 2023/123⁷ and (CFSP) 2024/349⁸. That Union support should be continued.

¹ Council Joint Action 2006/184/CFSP of 27 February 2006 in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, in the framework of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 65, 7.3.2006, p. 51, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/joint_action/2006/184/oj).

² Council Joint Action 2008/858/CFSP of 10 November 2008 in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 302, 13.11.2008, p. 29, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/joint_action/2008/858/oj).

³ Council Decision 2012/421/CFSP of 23 July 2012 in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), in the framework of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 196, 24.7.2012, p. 61, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2012/421/oj>).

⁴ Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/51 of 18 January 2016 in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) in the framework of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 12, 19.1.2016, p. 50, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2016/51/oj>).

⁵ Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/97 of 21 January 2019 in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in the framework of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 19, 22.1.2019, p. 11, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2019/97/oj>).

⁶ Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/2033 of 19 November 2021 amending Decision (CFSP) 2019/97 in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in the framework of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 415, 22.11.2021, p. 29, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/2033/oj>).

⁷ Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/123 of 17 January 2023 amending Decision (CFSP) 2019/97 in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in the framework of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 16, 18.1.2023, p. 34, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/123/oj>).

⁸ Council Decision (CFSP) 2024/349 of 16 January 2024 in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (OJ L, 2024/349, 17.1.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2024/349/oj>).

- (5) The technical implementation of this Decision should be entrusted to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA),

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:



Article 1

1. In the context of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy and the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence, the Union shall further support the activities of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) through an operational action in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), its inter-sessional programme and preparations for the Tenth Review Conference (the 'action').
2. The objectives of the action shall be:
 - (a) to support the BTWC inter-sessional programme by facilitating the discussions taking place within the Working Group on the Strengthening of the BTWC as well as the preparations for the Tenth Review Conference in 2027.
 - (b) to strengthen implementation of the Convention by building on the achievements of previous Council Decisions (CFSP).
3. A detailed description of the action is set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

1. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (the ‘High Representative’) shall be responsible for the implementation of this Decision.
2. The technical implementation of the activities referred to in Article 1(1) shall be carried out by UNODA.
3. UNODA shall perform the task referred to in paragraph 2 under the responsibility of the High Representative. For that purpose, the High Representative shall enter into the necessary arrangements with UNODA.

Article 3

1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the implementation of the action (the ‘expenditure’) shall be EUR 1 474 753.82.
2. The expenditure shall be managed in accordance with the rules and procedures applicable to the general budget of the Union.
3. The Commission shall supervise the proper management of the expenditure. For that purpose, it shall conclude a contribution agreement with UNODA (the ‘agreement’). The agreement shall stipulate that UNODA is to ensure the visibility of the Union’s contribution, appropriate to its size.

4. The Commission shall endeavour to conclude the agreement as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Decision. It shall inform the Council of any difficulties in that process and of the date of conclusion of the agreement.

Article 4

1. The High Representative shall report to the Council on the implementation of this Decision on the basis of regular reports by UNODA. Those reports shall form the basis of the evaluation carried out by the Council.
2. The Commission shall provide information on the financial aspects of the implementation of the action.

Article 5

1. This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.
2. This Decision shall expire 36 months after the conclusion of the agreement. However, it shall expire 6 months after the date of its entry into force if the agreement has not been concluded within that period.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council
The President
