EU seeks to strengthen the Convention prohibiting Biological weapons (BTWC)

The Council today adopted a decision on the EU position ahead of the Seventh 2011 BTWC Review Conference to take place in Geneva from 5 to 22 December 2011. The Convention prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. The Review Conference, which takes place every five years, addresses key issues for the Convention. Working together with partners from around the globe, the EU’s objective is to further strengthen the Convention, ensuring that it remains relevant to address 21st Century challenges. The Council decision recalls the EU’s commitment to the BTWC. Since 2006 the EU has funded projects in support of the BTWC for a total of EUR 2,300,000.

In the run-up to December, the EU identifies building confidence in compliance, supporting national implementation and promoting universality of the Convention as key priorities. These priorities build on the practical partnerships established by the EU as a whole and by its Member States with a broad range of countries from all regions of the world. As a result, the Decision represents a cross-regional, shared, endeavour that should help to chart the course for the BTWC for the next five years. The EU also pays tribute to good UN leadership through the Implementation Support Unit as an excellent example of modern cooperation to address common challenges.