EU and U.S. hold Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) capacity building Dialogue

The European Union and the United States of America held a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) capacity building Dialogue in Brussels to coordinate efforts in reducing weapons of mass destruction (WMD) threats and strengthening CBRN security globally. In a globalised world, where the free movement of persons and goods is increasing, the risk of transnational CBRN threats is increasing as well. Differing national approaches to CBRN preparedness may leave gaps that state and non-state actors could exploit to traffic or use weapons of mass destruction and related materials.

As such, the EU and the United States have been actively administering programmes that assist third countries in building capacity to prevent, detect and respond to WMD threats as well as implement strategic trade controls. The Dialogue, held on 14-15 May, enabled a constructive exchange of information, facilitated closer coordination between the two sides on their respective programmes and projects, and prioritised areas for collaboration.

The dialogue was chaired by Eddie Maier, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) for the EU, and Renee Sonderman, Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation (ISN), for the Department of State for the United States.

The EU delegation included representatives from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC). The U.S. delegation included representatives from the Departments of State, Defence, and Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

Background

The EU’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centre of Excellence (CoE) initiative was launched in 2010 and now spans across eight different regions in the world, underpinned by eight regional secretariats, associating 61 partner countries. The Initiative is jointly implemented by the EEAS and the European Commission (DG DEVCO and the Joint Research Centre), with the cooperation of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research (UNICRI) and other international
partners. With €240 million allocated over the period 2010-2020 and 80 large-scale projects implemented so far, the initiative is the largest existing EU civilian programme on security.

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