

EU CBRN Centres of Excellence - 10th Meeting of the National Focal Points - Brussels, 14 May 2025

Opening Remarks - Maciej Stadejek, Director for Security and Defence Policy, EEAS

Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to take part in this important meeting. The 10th meeting of the National Focal Points is a milestone - a testament to the strength of our collective commitment to global CBRN risk mitigation.

We meet at a time when the global landscape is marked by increasing complexity. Rapid technological innovation and heightened geopolitical tensions are reshaping the CBRN risk environment. From synthetic biology to AI-assisted proliferation, we are entering a new era of challenges. These developments demand a coherent, coordinated, and forward-leaning response from all of us. As the risks evolve, so must our actions.

The EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative represents a unique model of cooperative security. With 63 partner countries, it fosters a shared responsibility to prevent the misuse of CBRN materials. However allow me to emphasise, it is not only a technical platform - it is a diplomatic and political commitment of your countries and shared values.

Let me use this opportunity to call upon you all to stand for our shared values in multilateral fora. We have seen increasing attempts to instrumentalise the notion of "peaceful uses" as a pretext to weaken the global non-proliferation regime. The 2024 China-sponsored UN General Assembly resolution on peaceful uses of technologies claims that export controls are being abused to the detriment of peaceful development of states, mostly developing countries. The EU has opposed that resolution from the very beginning. A peaceful use of CBRN science and technology goes hand in hand with effective export controls. National export controls, guided by multilateral export control regimes, are essential safeguards. They are enablers of responsible innovation and trust. No amount of disinformation can change that.

According to extensive data, and based on close consultations with many of you, we have seen only positive impacts of export control, including the work of multilateral export control regimes - supporting transparency, capacity-building, and mutual trust. If you are encountering any challenges in this area - be it denials or procedural hurdles, please reach out. We are ready to work together to find practical solutions.

The EU remains a steadfast supporter of multilateralism. We are proud to co-operate closely and provide substantive financial support to international organizations central to the CBRN architecture. We contribute to capacity building in your countries and your regions, also through projects implemented by International Atomic Energy Agency, Organisation for the

Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention as well as under the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 or the UN Secretary-General's Mechanism.

I encourage all partners to join the EU in supporting effective multilateralism. In the United Nations and many other relevant platforms – your voices matter. And your votes matter. As close as we work in CBRN Centres of Excellence, we should stand together across the non-proliferation topics.

As we look ahead, we will continue to invest in capacity building, policy coordination, and innovation - together with all of you.

Let this meeting serve not only as a forum for exchange - but also as a reaffirmation of our common purpose: to prevent the worst, by working together at our best.

Thank you - and I wish you all a productive meeting.