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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Joint Press Release following the EU-US High level Dialogue on Non-proliferation, Disarmament, Arms Control

The European Union and the United States met on 11 December 2015 in Brussels for their annual High level Dialogue on Non-Proliferation, Disarmament and Arms Control. The US Delegation was led by Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Non-proliferation, Thomas Countryman and by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, Anita Friedt. The meeting was chaired by EEAS Principal Adviser and Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Jacek Bylica, and it included senior officials from 28 EU Member States.

The EU and the US had extensive discussions on current priorities on the global non-proliferation and disarmament agenda following the 2015 NPT Review Conference and the recent UNGA First Committee. Topics discussed also included support for the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism related to chemical weapons in Syria, the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit, next year's Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, as well as possible biological and chemical threats from non-state actors.

In his opening remarks Special Envoy Bylica declared: "This year brought yet another important proof that the United States remains the EU's key partner in successfully dealing with global proliferation challenges through diplomatic means".

Assistant Secretary of State Countryman said that "the EU-US partnership is essential to preserving the achievements of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to creating the conditions for further progress in disarmament".

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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