

New York, 26 July, 2007

"Dear Ambassador Burian:

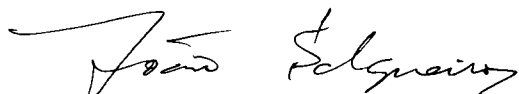
At the April 30, 2007, U.S.-EU Summit, the United States and European Union emphasized their strong support for United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540. The United States and European Union support the UNSC 1540 Committee's efforts to widely distribute and publicize 1540-related documents and requests, including through its website. This transparency is essential to the committee's ability to act as a robust clearinghouse for member states seeking to fulfil their 1540 obligations. In this regard, we refer to the committee the paragraph extracted below from U.S.-EU Summit's Declaration on Promoting Peace, Human Rights, and Democracy Worldwide. We request you post this excerpt on the 1540 website under both the United States and EU headings.

"Addressing proliferation financing remains critical to our global efforts to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction. We support the UNSC 1540 Committee and the development of a coordinated process for the implementation of UNSCR 1540. This process will include identifying gaps in legislative framework and their enforcement measures and, if requested, assisting States to develop road maps or plans of action for addressing remaining measures to be taken and to offer assistance to implement the resolution fully. We reaffirm the urgency of implementing the WMD proliferation financing measures required by UNSCR 1540 and other international obligations, including the freezing of assets required by UNSCRs 1718 (North Korea), 1737 and 1747 (Iran), and subsequent resolutions. We are committed to working together on new initiatives in this area, including by targeting proliferation finance making use of the expertise of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and examining possibilities to develop a global mechanism."

Given the UNSC 1540 Committee's work program under UNSCR 1673, it is uniquely situated to assist those nations most in need of assistance because their legal and regulatory controls are particularly lacking, or because of greater proliferation activity in their region. While committee assessments are not binding, they provide useful input for assisting donors in making their assistance decisions. The excerpt above demonstrates strong U.S. and EU support for global implementation of 1540, including the committee's efforts toward this goal. We believe this demonstration of support would be of interest to other UN member states, potential donors, and recipients through the website. We would also hope this example encourages the Committee to reach decisions more quickly on the posting of national statements at outreach events, assistance requests, and the planning for other work of the committee.



H. E. Mr. Zalmay Khalilzad
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America
to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. João Manuel Guerra Salgueiro
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
Portugal
to the United Nations