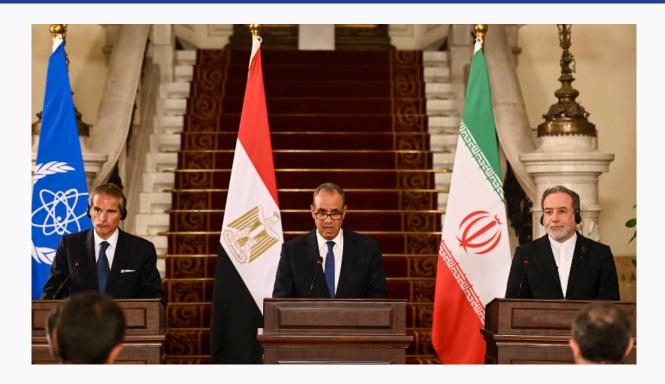
EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium

Promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks

OCTOBER 2025, ISSUE 70

Latest Publications



Iran Nuclear Negotiations Snap Back to the Past

Alexander K. Bollfrass, The International Institute for Strategic Studies, October 2025

France, Germany and the UK have recently triggered the snapback mechanism of the JCPOA, designed to curb Iran's nuclear programme. Examining the history of Iran's nuclear negotiations raises questions about the success of such sanctions and a future of Iranian non-compliance.

Read here



Small Modular Reactors: Navigating the New Nuclear Renaissance

Ingrid Kirsten, Anthony Stott, and Noah Mayhew, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, October 2025

Global momentum towards nuclear energy is growing, exemplified by the commitment launched at COP28 to triple nuclear power capacity by 2050. Achieving this goal—and broader sustainable development objectives—will depend on the inclusion of developing countries in efforts to scale nuclear power globally. Without Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), nuclear power would remain largely out of reach for developing countries. As global energy demand continues to rise, interest in SMRs is gaining momentum. With their compact size, inherent safety features, and deployment flexibility, SMRs have the potential to expand access to nuclear power—particularly for countries with limited resources, smaller electricity grids, or geographically isolated communities. In a new Sustainable Solutions brief, VCDNP experts Ingrid Kirsten, Anthony Stott, and Noah Mayhew provide an overview of SMR designs, fuel types, and potential applications. They examine key challenges and explore pathways to deployment, including innovative implementation models, as well as the IAEA's support to countries in developing the necessary infrastructure for nuclear power programmes.

Read here



Echoes of the Past: Iran, Israel, the IAEA, and the Politics of Condemnation

Ludovica Castelli, BASIC, October 2025

The 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), held from 15 to 19 September, became the stage for renewed debate over the physical protection of nuclear facilities against attacks. The Iranian delegation – elected to serve as vice president of the Conference – seized the opportunity to catalyse the attention on the June 2025 strikes against its nuclear infrastructure, jointly conducted by Israel and the United States. For observers familiar with the history of attacks on nuclear facilities in the region, Tehran's rhetoric carried a marked sense of historical resonance.

Read here

EU News

EU Statement on Ukraine

Statement by President Zelenskyy, Prime Minister Starmer, Chancellor Merz, President Macron, Prime Minister Meloni, Prime Minister Tusk, President Costa, President von der Leyen, Prime Minister Støre, President Stubb, and Prime Ministers Frederiksen, Sánchez and Kristersson

Read here

Network News

EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium Holds 14th Annual Conference

On 10-11 November 2025, the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), on behalf of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium, will host the 14th EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference in Brussels. This annual flagship event brings together experts from governments, international organizations, and research institutions worldwide to discuss all aspects of EU's non-proliferation and disarmament agenda, including arms control, chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, space security, and emerging technologies. Over two days, participants will engage in open and substantive discussions aimed at advancing global non-proliferation and disarmament objectives. The Conference also seeks to support the implementation of the EU Strategic Compass by generating policy recommendations to strengthen the EU's role in these fields.

The Conference, organised within the framework of the activities carried out by the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium is funded by the European Union.

Deadline for registration: 6 November

Register here

Podcast



In the season 5 premiere of The Arms Control Primer podcast, Dr Alex Bollfrass is joined by dr Nicole Grajewski and Dr Azadeh Zamirirad to unpack Iran's nuclear programme - from its origins under the Shah to the JCPOA, the 2025 Israel–Iran conflict, and the uncertain road ahead for diplomacy, deterrence and non-proliferation.

After the reinforcement of sanctions on Iran from France, Germany and the UK in late September, the question of compliance with nuclear arrangements has taken centre stage again. As Nicole Grajewski highlighted in the episode: "Since the end of the 12-day war, the Trump administration really has lost interest in the Iran nuclear file. However, the whole summer after the June 12-day war was really about the European effort to use the last lever of influence, which was the ability to invoke snapback sanctions on Iran."

Listen here

Network Calls

Research Associate (m/f/d) for the Project "Protection Mainstreaming through Valuation Practices" in the DFG Research Unit 5870 "The Promise of Security in Catastrophic Times"

Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, University of Hamburg

The application deadline is 14 November 2025.

More info here

64th ISODARCO Course - Nuclear Risk, Technological Disruption, and International Conflict in an Age of Turbulence

Andalo (Trento), 11 - 18 January 2026

More info here