

**Question for oral answer O-000097/2017
to the Council**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Subject: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons are the most serious threat to humanity, since their use would lead to widespread death, destruction and release radiation that would leave lasting repercussions for decades.

The dimension and potency of the nuclear arsenals currently in existence and the growing tension internationally, make the need for nuclear disarmament – an essential issue to safeguard peace, security and the very survival of humanity – all the more urgent.

On 7 July 2017, a United Nations Conference was convened to negotiate a legally binding instrument banning nuclear weapons, leading to their total elimination – an objective shared by the 122 states promoters – and giving expression to the aspirations of the peoples for a world free of nuclear weapons. Thus, the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was passed.

The Treaty has been open for signature and ratification by the various Member States of the United Nations since 20 September 2017.

The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), an international advocacy group that helped, among many other peace movements, organisations and states, bring about this landmark Treaty

Will the Council answer:

- What reasons justify the absence of an EU position on this Treaty?
- Does the Council intend to discuss this Treaty and propose its signature and ratification by all the EU Member States?

Tabled: 4.12.2017

Forwarded: 5.12.2017

Deadline for reply: 26.12.2017