- Examines the range of issue areas that could be covered by such a regional regime including: verification procedures, export controls, deterrence, disease surveillance and biodefence;
- Identifies, through a mapping exercise of the possible options (from a legally binding protocol regime to a collection of political binding mechanisms), a range of policy alternatives for the EU Member States to consider;
- Explores how to draw all the former members of the Soviet bloc, and especially the Russian Federation, into the regime (including the relationship between any EU BW regime and the rest of Europe, as represented in the OSCE, and the process for developing engagement between the two groupings of states); and
- Considers the potential implications of a regional regime. How will it affect the European biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries? Could it damage the transatlantic relationship?

The report is divided into three parts. The first part examines the nature of the required solution, including an assessment of the current state of play in terms of international BW controls and key proliferation concerns. Part II examines in more detail existing EU plans and potential future solutions to the BW problematic, in four specific areas: strengthening BTWC compliance and verification; combating and preventing BW proliferation; deterrence against use of BW; and civil emergency planning. Some conclusions are then drawn as to the political realities and options for formalising EU activity in these areas in a three-tier BW regime.

Part II also considers the implications of an EU BW control regime on the wider Europe (including EU Associate Countries, the Russian Federation and the Commonwealth of Independent States), the United States and European pharmaceutical and biotech industries. It also contains specific reference to the constructive role that Canada might be expected to play. Part III contains conclusions and recommendations.