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EU statement on UNSCR 1325 ‘Gender and Security’

Mr Chairperson

The European Union thanks Baroness O’Loan, Ireland’s Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, and Ms. Seftaoui, OSCE Senior Advisor on Gender Issues, for their excellent presentations and remarks and wishes to extend its gratitude to the FSC Chair for scheduling a discussion on this topic in the framework of the Security Dialogue.

As 2010 marks the 10th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace and Security” and the 5th anniversary of the Ministerial Council Decision 14/05 on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, it is of the utmost importance that we strive to ensure gender equality in all aspects of human rights, to fight violence against women and to enhance women’s participation in international peace and security.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 took into account, for the first time, a gender dimension in the areas of peace building, peace keeping and conflict prevention. Nine EU Member States have adopted and several countries are preparing their national action plans and strategies, as called for by the Security Council and ODIHR’s Human Rights, Women and Security programme. A conference was organized by the EU and Belgium on the 9th of September for the 10 years of this Resolution. Ministerial

Council Decision 14/05 emphasized women's full and equal participation in all phases of conflict prevention, resolution and peace building as an integral part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.

The EU recognizes the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace building, and considers unacceptable that women continue to suffer disproportionately from violence in conflict situations and remain largely absent from peace negotiations, peace keeping and post-conflict rehabilitation efforts.

The EU welcomes the creation in February 2010 of a post of UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the setting up of a new UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Those help to bring more attention and action on this critical issue. The EU also welcomes the appointment of the CiO Special Representative for Gender Equality and commends the Chairmanship for this initiative.

The EU, among its actions to implement the Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2010-2015, also assumes the commitment to continue to implement the EU Comprehensive Approach to these Resolutions and to monitor the implementation of this Comprehensive Approach through the use of dedicated indicators and the regular preparation of a progress report. The EU recalls its full support for the two previous FSC round-tables, which focused on involving women as a key issue in security and peace reconstruction and on the gendered impacts of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Despite the progress made, we are aware that the commitments under UN Security Council Resolution 1325 have not yet been fulfilled. Women and women's organizations remain underrepresented at all decision-making levels and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict, and the specific needs and rights of women require closer attention, especially in the area of resettlement, rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons. Women and women's organizations also need to be taken into account in post-conflict

situations, by recognizing and incorporating their experience in the reconstruction process.

The EU encourages both the OSCE and all participating States to incorporate the commitments of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and Ministerial Council Decision 14/05 in their respective policies, including by adopting national plans for the implementation of this Resolution. The EU recognizes that much has already been done within the OSCE and commends the work of the Gender Unit, which improves the situation in the politico-military dimension with concrete tools such as the development of the GenderBase, the creation of online coaching modules to support staff working in the first dimension, the publication of a number of resources and tools, and the assistance to field operations. In this vein, the EU also recalls the special seminar organized by the Gender Unit on the topic of “Understanding the Benefits of Women’s Involvement in Security” held in the Corfu-Process where high-level practitioners have shared their respective experience and advice at the OSCE. In conclusion, let me wish Baroness O’Loan every success for her future work and assure Ms. Jamilla Seftaoui and her team of our continued support.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

** Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.