



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 721 Vienna, 12 June 2013

EU Statement "Women, Peace and Security"

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to warmly welcome Dr Andrew Long, Senior Policy Adviser and Ms Jackie Upton, Policy and Programme Manager of the Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the UK government as well as Ms Bilge Koçyiğit, FSC Coordinator on matters relating to UNSCR 1325. We also wish to thank the Lithuanian Chairmanship for arranging this opportunity to take forward our discussions on the important topic of Women, Peace and Security at the FSC.

At this occasion, we would like to reiterate our full commitment to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security as well as its follow-on resolutions. Notably, the follow-on resolutions have strengthened the focus on addressing sexual violence in conflicts. The EU has taken action to support the implementation of these resolutions. We have adopted a joint Commission and Council document on a comprehensive approach to UNSCR's 1325 and 1820 (2008) in 2008 as well as a revised operational document on their implementation within the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in 2012. The EU supports the inclusion of gender experts in mediation efforts and women's participation throughout the conflict cycle.

We have therefore listened with a keen interest to the insights that Dr Long and Ms Upton have provided on the UK Government's "Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative", which we commend and support. We appreciate the opportunity to learn more about this important initiative, to discuss these crucial issues and to share good practices and lessons, in order to better combat sexual violence in conflict and especially to generate the political will and tools necessary to end impunity. The EU has actively supported the unprecedented Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict adopted by the G8 Foreign Ministers on 11th of April and will contribute to its implementation.

We would also like to thank Ms Koçyiğit for sharing her views on how to further FSC efforts relating to the implementation of UNSCR 1325. We are convinced that the FSC has a role to play in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and that it should redouble its efforts to this effect. As we have stated previously, one of the focus areas for this work should be the voluntary reporting on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 as part of the information exchange on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. It would be beneficial to discuss the information that has been provided with a view of lessons learned and possible good practices for the national implementation of UNSCR 1325. In a wider context, we wish to reiterate at this occasion our support for the development of an OSCE-Wide Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. Furthermore we reiterate that UNSCR 1325 and, more broadly, Women, Peace and Security, are issues that need to be addressed before, during and after conflict in order to have the greatest effect.

Finally, we would like to thank the speakers once more for their interesting presentations. We look forward to further discussions on issues related to Women, Peace and Security in the FSC.

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

^{*} Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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