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**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 915th MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

15 May 2019

On the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540

The European Union (EU) and its Member States thank the speakers for attending the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the measures for strengthening the implementation of resolution 1540.

The EU and its Member States reiterate their support for resolution 1540 of 2004 and all subsequent resolutions, in particular the most recent, resolution 2325 (2016) and resolution 1887 of 2009, which are cornerstones of the non-proliferation regime and in line with the principles of co-operation and comprehensive security on which the OSCE is based. We encourage the universalization of international non-proliferation treaties. We reiterate our deep concern at the threats today to non-proliferation regimes. The risk of proliferation and illicit trafficking in weapons of mass destruction (WMD), chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons, their means of delivery, and related materials, for use by non-State actors is still very real and demonstrates that resolution 1540 remains completely relevant today. The prospect of terrorist groups acquiring WMD makes it even more imperative to implement these non-proliferation principles and measures, to adapt them to the evolving threat, and to strengthen international co-operation, including the fight against terrorism. We are particularly concerned about the transfers to the Middle East of materials and technologies for means of delivery capable of carrying WMD.

The EU reiterates its firm support for the practical and effective implementation of these resolutions. It welcomes the progress at the national, regional and international level in that regard and urges, on the one hand, that all of the provisions of these resolutions be incorporated in national legislation and, on the other, that national action plans for combating the threat of CBRN weapons be elaborated so as to prevent the acquisition and use of these weapons and materials, their means of delivery and related materials by non-State actors.

The EU reaffirms its full commitment to and support for the work of the 1540 Committee. It adopted a decision in May 2017 to provide 2.6 million euros to support the activities for implementing resolution 1540.

The EU recalls that resolution 2325 (2016) made it possible to adapt and strengthen the instruments for combating this threat by increasing international co-operation and the dynamics of assistance and interaction. The review of the implementation of resolution 1540 and its renewal, both planned for 2021, present an opportunity to identify the progress made since 2016, the focus of efforts and the new challenges to be confronted by us. In that regard, the EU supports the elaboration of good practice guidelines for the

implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540, as recently announced by the Tajik FSC Chairmanship. It could make a substantial contribution to the comprehensive review of this resolution by the OSCE in 2021.

The EU encourages increasing public awareness and international co-operation to prevent these major risks of proliferation to non-State actors. Its decision in 2017 to provide financial support for its implementation and its participation in regional workshops for training contact points for the implementation of resolution 1540 both contribute to this.

The full implementation of resolution 1540 is essential. All EU Member States have submitted implementation reports to the 1540 Committee and several of them have elaborated national action plans that are periodically updated. We support the OSCE's involvement in specific projects. For example, the Organization provides assistance in the joint effort to eliminate hazardous chemical weapons in the OSCE area and develops practical activities, such as the provision of assistance to requesting participating States in elaborating reports and national action plans, in drafting national implementing legislation, in promoting best practices and in fostering the exchange of information on the implementation of resolution 1540.

As a forum for dialogue, the FSC has its own tools for supporting the implementation of resolution 1540. Some are already in place, such as the OSCE contact points, which meet annually and are an integral component of the 1540 Committee network. We also applaud all those participating States that, in a spirit of transparency, publish and update their implementation reports, and also the promising initiative by Poland and Croatia to introduce a peer review mechanism.

The EU firmly believes that the OSCE's role and resources should be used to promote the sustainable application of resolution 1540 and related resolutions.

Finally, we should like to thank the Tajik FSC Chairmanship for providing us with the opportunity today of discussing the implementation of resolution 1540 in the OSCE area.

The candidate countries North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Liechtenstein, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

1 North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.