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**EU statement in response to the report by the Director of
the Conflict Prevention Centre, H.E. Ambassador Adam
Kobieracki**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Adam Kobieracki for his report on the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC). Dealing with the conflict cycle is an essential function of the OSCE, specifically of its executive structures, its autonomous institutions and the field missions. We therefore welcome the successful organisation of the Security Days on approaches to conflict resolution in the OSCE area, held earlier this week, on the initiative of the Secretary General. Equally, we appreciate the Food-for-Thought Paper on Conflict Resolution in the OSCE Area circulated on 5 September 2013.

The full implementation of MC decision 3/11 is a prerequisite for strengthening the role of the Organisation in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation. We continue to support the indispensable work done by the CPC in this field and hope that efforts made to enhance internal co-operation, produce internal guidelines and identify synergies will bear fruit in the coming years. We see value in appointing a thematic coordinator on the conflict cycle to progress these important issues, and channel the results into the Helsinki+40 process.

The resolution of protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova, in Georgia and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains a top priority for the EU. We regard this as a core task of the OSCE. The EU reiterates its strong support for the Geneva Discussions, the negotiations within the "5+2" format and the mediation of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group. Intensified efforts to resolve existing conflicts are needed. We support the contribution of the CPC and we encourage them and the

relevant field missions to continue the promotion of confidence building measures and projects which contribute to fostering understanding between all sides. This should include increased co-operation with civil society organisations in the conflict regions in order to map potential ways for promoting understanding and rebuilding trust and confidence.

Field missions have a central role to play throughout the conflict cycle. We are therefore pleased that a network of early warning focal points has been established. We welcome efforts to train field mission staff in mediation skills and dialogue facilitation. We commend the increasing coordination between field missions, a good example of which was seen during the successful facilitation of the Serbian presidential and parliamentary elections throughout Kosovo* last year. The facilitation, promotion and organisation of the Kosovo municipal elections this November is a further opportunity to demonstrate the unique expertise and added value that the OSCE can offer to the wider international community.

The EU highly values the respective mandates and activities of OSCE field presences that assist participating States in the implementation of their OSCE commitments. We welcome the increasing attention that is being paid to Central Asia. The support and guidance provided by the CPC in co-operation with the TNT department in areas such as border management, policing and counter-narcotics is highly appreciated. Also, we appreciate engagement with Afghanistan and support the activities planned to provide assistance, including through fuller involvement in international initiatives, during and after the transitional period. Furthermore, we look forward to concrete proposals on how to deepen our cooperation with our newest participating State, Mongolia, in accordance with the country's requests and needs.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

We continue to attach great importance to the full implementation of existing OSCE politico-military commitments and appreciate the assistance provided by the FSC Support Section. They play an extremely important role in minimising the effects of the illicit spread and destabilising accumulation of SALW and conventional ammunition, as well as to promoting the systematic destruction of hazardous military chemicals within the OSCE area. The EU and its Members States strongly support the CPC's activities in this area, including through the provision of financial means. We also see value in further enhancing the OSCE's role and capacities devoted to the support of the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in close coordination and co-operation with the UN and other relevant international organisations.

Recalling our previous requests, we urge the CPC to report on efforts to gender mainstream its activities, and on how the CPC could assist in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions. We support the adoption of an OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security by the end of this year. We underline the need to enhance efforts in increasing gender sensitivity of early warning and conflict prevention mechanisms and increasing women's participation in mediation and reconciliation activities. Furthermore, noting UNSCR 2106, we encourage the development of expertise among relevant staff in the prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict within existing resources.

Finally, we support strengthening the mediation support and dialogue facilitation activities of the CPC. We look forward to further measures, including the possible elaboration of a compendium on the OSCE's involvement in peace processes, thematic meetings of the Permanent Council on specific conflicts, and the upcoming Helsinki+40 meeting on the resolution of protracted conflicts. Also, we would like to ask Ambassador Kobieracki for more information about activities in the field of post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as about plans for developing the concept of "Infrastructure for Peace (I4P)", discussed at the Security Days meeting.

We would like, Mr. Chairman, to once again thank the CPC and its Director for their valuable work and we wish Ambassador Kobieracki and his dedicated staff every success in their future endeavours.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as the Republic of MOLDOVA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO, align themselves with this statement.

* 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 the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.
