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**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE
843rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 December 2010

**In response to Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro,
Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in
Human Beings**

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union thanks Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, for her excellent first annual report.

The first two parts are extremely useful. The Special Representative first of all provides a comprehensive review of the trafficking phenomenon, a form of modern-day slavery that is both a violation of human rights and a transnational threat to security. She then gives a detailed description of the OSCE's activities to combat trafficking, implemented by various units within the Secretariat, and by the institutions and field missions. We welcome the driving and co-ordinating role that she plays in this regard.

We have paid particular attention to the third part of the report devoted to the challenges and future perspectives set out under the four Ps (prevention, prosecution, protection of victims and partnership). The European Union has long advocated the need to combat trafficking simultaneously on three fronts: prevention, prosecution and protection of victims. We regard the fourth P, partnerships, as an appropriate method, valid for each of the other three fronts. We are thus completely satisfied with the general approach adopted by the Special Representative.

Mr. Chairperson,

As far as prosecution is concerned, we totally agree with the observation made by the Special Representative that trafficking in human beings is both a very lucrative criminal activity and a criminal offence that is inadequately prosecuted. In order to reduce its attractiveness, it needs to be vigorously prosecuted with the backing of an appropriate legal framework, modern investigative means and deterrent sentencing.

The first prerequisite for effective prosecution of trafficking remains the identification of victims. They need to be offered protection that enables them to regain their dignity and, if necessary, to testify calmly. Within this framework, a multidisciplinary and partnered

approach is indispensable, with the involvement in particular of the public sector and of civil society and with special attention being devoted to child victims.

Intensified efforts to forestall trafficking in human beings has always been one of the major focuses of the Office of the Special Representative. Prevention is indeed better than cure. The possibilities for prevention are extensive, particularly in socio-economic terms. Armed with the information obtained in a seminar on trafficking for labour exploitation focusing on the agricultural sector in 2009 and a conference on trafficking for the purpose of domestic servitude in 2010, the OSCE ought to be able to make a useful contribution to preventing trafficking in the world of labour. Given the considerable operational impact of this type of activity, we strongly encourage the Special Representative to continue in this direction.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, the European Union would like to thank the Special Representative once again for the quality of her contribution and for the excellent work that she has carried out. We should also like to restate our support for her wide-ranging and vital mission.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia¹, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ and Iceland², the Stabilisation and Association Process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

1 Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area.