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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1070th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

8 October 2015

On the OSCE Scales of Contributions

The European Union Member States thank Ambassador Maddens for his presentation and the conclusions presented today to the Council. We welcome his personal engagement in dealing with this question.

The establishment of this working group in 2013 was met with a great deal of enthusiasm by the European Union Member States. We were very interested in seeing a consensual solution to this question, given the significant impact of contributions for our countries, which account for 70 per cent of the Organization's budget.

We therefore regret that the working group has not been able to achieve conclusive results, despite the very informative meetings that have taken place. During these meetings, several ideas were proposed for consideration as a basis for constructive dialogue which, unfortunately, has been instigated with great difficulty during these past months.

We remain committed to the idea of finding an appropriate solution to this problem. The European Union Member States have been particularly involved in this process for the last three years now and will continue to be so. The scales of contributions need to be revised, not only because the current system comes to an end on 31 December 2015 but also above all because they are not based on a rational system and should be adapted to the economic realities in accordance with a fair distribution model.

We hope that dialogue on this subject will be taken up again soon and that it will produce fruitful exchanges.

We have listened to the different proposals and recommendations you have made. We have studied with interest the idea of a single scale based on gross national income and the inclusion of a floor and ceiling for contributions. This could form a basis for our future work. Additional computing elements could be included in the new single scale without complicating the new methodology too much. Gross national income could be introduced in the long term. Further discussion is also necessary regarding the floor and above all the ceiling for contributions, and we should also give greater consideration to the possibility of a transition period.

We also support the idea of a simple, systematic and annual contribution revision mechanism that would reflect the economic and budgetary situation of the participating States

and would also permit more time to be devoted to operational aspects rather than internal ones, in the Organization's interests. This should not affect the question of renewal of the scales on 31 December.

We trust that these elements will form a basis for informed dialogue in the weeks to come.

Ambassador, we thank you again for your work over the last few years.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,¹ Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, and the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.