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## EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 833  
Vienna, 4 November 2010**

### **EU statement in response to the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Gender issues, Ms Wendy Patten**

The European Union welcomes the Chairperson-in-Office Special Representative for Gender Equality, Ms Wendy Patten. The EU is fully committed to the active implementation of a Comprehensive Approach to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which celebrates in 2010 its 10th anniversary. The appointment of the Special Representative comes therefore at an important time.

Women's equal participation in decision-making at all levels is key to better advance human rights, to address specific needs and concerns of women and to make use of all human resources. The Decision N° 7/09 adopted by the Athens Ministerial Council contains important commitments on Women's participation in political and public life, essential to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area.

The EU is hopeful that the Special Representative will enjoy adequate resources and that participating States will give full cooperation and treat her initiatives in a transparent and open manner, in order to ensure that the barriers to the achievement of true gender equality be removed.

We encourage the participating States and all stakeholders working to implement the Gender Action Plan to avail of the appointment of the Special Representative to enhance the implementation of their commitments for greater gender balance and equity throughout the OSCE area, in order to ensure the protection of women in times of conflict and post-conflict, and their full participation in conflict prevention, peace building and reconstruction processes, as well as in the processes of political settlement of conflicts, and in international peace and security.

The EU stresses the need for a strong coordination between the Chairperson-in-Office Special Representative, the Senior Adviser on Gender issues and the ODIHR. This is crucial to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of the OSCE's action in the field of Gender Equality.

In conclusion, we wish the Special Representative every success in her future endeavors.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\* and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, 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.

\*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

\*\* Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.