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**STATEMENT BY  
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 942<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE  
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

19 February 2020

**On United Nations Security Council resolution 1540**

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union and its Member States thank the speakers for the quality of their presentations to 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 Ministerial Council in Bratislava offered an opportunity to recall our commitment to the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. The adoption of a declaration commemorating the 25th and 15th anniversaries of these documents acknowledges their complete relevance today and reaffirms the commitment of the OSCE and its participating States to the full and comprehensive application of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. We also welcome the inclusion of a specific reference to the promotion of equal opportunity and meaningful participation of women.

Beyond this declaration, the EU and its Member States reiterate their support for and commitment to the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 and all subsequent resolutions, including the most recent, resolution 2325 (2016), and resolution 1887 (2009), which are cornerstones of the non-proliferation regime and are 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 over the threats to non-proliferation regimes today. The risk of the proliferation of and trafficking in weapons of mass destruction (WMD), nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical 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 goods and technologies for means of delivery capable of carrying WMD.

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

The review of the status of the implementation of resolution 1540 and the renewal of the mandate of the 1540 Committee, 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 best practice guides 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.

It is essential that resolution 1540 be implemented in full. 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 involvement of the OSCE in specific projects. For example, the Organization is providing assistance in the joint effort to eliminate hazardous chemical weapons in the OSCE area and is developing practical activities, such as the provision of assistance to requesting participating States in elaborating reports and national action plans, drafting national implementing legislation, promoting best practices and fostering the exchange of information on the implementation of resolution 1540.

As a platform for dialogue, the FSC has means of its own for supporting the implementation of resolution 1540. Some measures have already been taken, such as the OSCE Points of Contact, which are an integral part of the 1540 Committee network and meet annually. We also commend all participating States that, acting in a spirit of transparency, publish and update their reports on the implementation of resolution 1540.

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

The candidate countries North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, Serbia<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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