



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 716 Vienna, 8 May 2013

EU Statement on UNSCR 1325 implementation

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to warmly welcome Mr Michael Larmas Smith, Program Director of Global Peace Operations Initiative for the U.S. Department of State. We wish to thank Mr Larmas Smith for his very interesting presentation that has highlighted some of the benefits and practical applications of the principles of UNSCR 1325 on operations. Our thanks also go to the Lithuanian Chairmanship for arranging this important discussion on Women, Peace and Security.

At this occasion, we would like to reiterate our full commitment to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and related resolutions. These resolutions provide a focus to the beneficial role women can play in the resolution of conflicts as well as to the protection of women and children in conflict.

We support the inclusion of gender experts in mediation efforts, alongside the participation of women throughout such processes. Actions have already been undertaken by the EU to promote women's equal and full participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction.

Hence, the EU has adopted a joint Commission and Council document on a comprehensive approach to UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 (2008) in 2008 as well as a revised operational document on their implementation within the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in 2012. There is an ever increasing recognition within CSDP of the importance and the added strategic and operational value of incorporating gender issues in all phases of planning, conduct and review of civilian and military crisis management missions and operations as well as in pre-deployment and in-mission training. Where possible the EU aims to include a dedicated human rights and / or gender adviser or focal point for each CSDP mission and operation.

The EU and its Member States are convinced that UNSCR 1325 needs to be implemented in a holistic and comprehensive manner; as a regional security organisation the OSCE has a major part to play in this. We wish to reiterate our support to the development of an OSCE-Wide Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. We feel that the FSC has a valid interest in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and would welcome continued discussion among the participating States in line with our mandate from the Vilnius Ministerial Council. We believe the Security Dialogue scheduled for 12 June 2013 will provide another appropriate occasion for the FSC to streamline its efforts in this respect.

Finally, we would like to once more thank Mr Michael Larmas Smith for his presentation. We look forward to next discussions on issues related to Women, Peace and Security in the FSC.

The acceding country CROATIA^{*}, the candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND^{**} and SERBIA, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

^{*} Croatia, 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 EFTA and the European Economic Area.