



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU statement in response to Ms. Nina Nordberg's presentation on 'Human Rights and Crisis Management - including the Relevance of UNSCR 1325'

The European Union thanks Ms. Nina Nordberg, Project Researcher, for her presentation on 'Human Rights and Crisis Management – including the Relevance of UNSCR 1325' and wishes to extend its gratitude to the FSC Chair for scheduling a discussion on this very important topic in the framework of the Security Dialogue.

The EU has repeatedly highlighted its support for strengthening the OSCE's capacities in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as the efforts to register tangible progress regarding existing, protracted and emerging conflicts.

The EU fully shares the comprehensive approach to security that has been developed in the OSCE and that has demonstrated its value and relevance. This comprehensive approach is and should remain the conceptual framework for all our discussions. Security in the OSCE area cannot be guaranteed by narrowing the focus only on so-called hard security.

For the EU, full implementation of all OSCE commitments and mechanisms, the advancement of democracy and the respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are all indispensable to prevent conflicts and manage conflicts.

Mr Chairperson

The role of women as peacebuilders and important actors but also their vulnerable position as victims of conflict needs to be underlined. The

empowerment of women is not only important for durable peace and security, but also for economic and political development. It urges to increase women's participation in every area of operations, including reconciliation work, peace negotiation, peace-building, peace enforcement, peacekeeping and conflict prevention. The protection of civilians in armed conflict is a crucial aspect in crisis management. The EU considers UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) (UNSCR 1325) as a milestone in setting the gender dimension in the areas of peace building, peace keeping and conflict prevention high on the political agenda. The EU is also aware that the UNSCR 1325 is not something that only concerns women. It is about policy and society as a whole and its implementation demands the involvement of both men and women. Men's participation in the promotion of UNSCR 1325 should be stepped up.

The EU, among its actions to implement the Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2010-2015, also assumes the commitment to continue to implement the EU Comprehensive Approach to the UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (2008) on Women, Peace and Security and to monitor the implementation of the Comprehensive Approach through the use of dedicated indicators and the regular preparation of a progress report.

Despite the progress made, we are aware that commitments under UNSCR 1325 have not yet been fulfilled. Women and women's organizations remain underrepresented at all levels of decision-making and in mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict. In addition, the specific needs and rights of women require closer attention, especially in the area of resettlement, rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons. Women and women's organizations also need to be taken into account in post-conflict situations by recognizing and incorporating their experience in the reconstruction process and in the process of policy planning. More needs to be done also within the OSCE.

The EU believes that it is of the utmost importance to ensure gender equality in all aspects of human rights, to enhance women's participation in international peace and security and to fight all forms of violence against women in conflict. The EU encourages both the OSCE and all participating States to incorporate the commitments of UNSCR 1325 and Ministerial Council Decision 14/05 in their respective policies, including by adopting national plans for the implementation of this Resolution. In conclusion, let me thank once again Ms. Nina Nordberg for her presentation today.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

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

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