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**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE
1083rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 December 2015

**In response to the OSCE Special Representative and
Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings,
Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova**

The European Union and its Member States are pleased to welcome Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to present the annual report on her activities.

As indicated in the 2014 annual report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to which you referred, trafficking is a crime committed most frequently at the intraregional level and the main forms remain sexual exploitation and forced labour. This means that it is imperative to act decisively in the OSCE region, which is directly affected, and our Organization has an important role to play in helping the participating States and our partners. The vulnerable situation of most migrants can, as you underscored, result in them becoming victims of trafficking in human beings. We support your continuing the practice of distributing an annual report on the OSCE's anti-trafficking activities. This is an important document to guide our activities, particularly within the framework of this Organization.

On the basis of the 2003 Action Plan and the Addendum of 2013, we encourage you to simultaneously activate the four levers to promote a comprehensive and integrated approach. Efforts should focus on: reducing demand to prevent this phenomenon; the identification, protection and care of the victims, including their compensation; the prosecution and conviction of the criminals and the confiscation of the assets and profits resulting from this crime; and lastly, partnership with all the relevant stakeholders, including the all-important civil society ones, at the national and international level.

Madam Representative,

We should like to draw particular attention to your work in the context of the conflict in Ukraine, through your personal contribution and the prevention and training activities provided by the OSCE in that region, especially those concerning the management of unaccompanied minors.

In terms of awareness-raising, there were many activities in 2015: one of these, the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference at a time of crisis confirmed that the OSCE could enable fruitful discussions among the representatives of various institutions,

from the private sector and civil society. We support this approach, which produces good practices.

In terms of action, we support your efforts to promote the criminal prosecution of the perpetrators of these offences by increasing the training for magistrates to make them aware of this type of offence and also by involving all police forces in identifying victims and enabling them to obtain compensation for damages. Collaboration with other international organizations and the OSCE field missions is clearly one of your objectives and this seems important in the light of the assistance that you can provide to them.

We reaffirm our determination to combat all forms of trafficking in human beings with a view to eradicating them. We recall in this regard that, since the adoption of Directive 2011/36, the European Union has been fully engaged in specific activities to develop its anti-trafficking strategy for 2012 to 2016 founded on an approach based on human rights and the protection of victims and their rights, and co-ordinated by the European Union Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator.

We encourage you to work together with us, as the OSCE's multidimensional approach is in line with the European Union's strategy.

Lastly, we thank all the executive structures for the work accomplished and encourage them not to slacken their efforts so that the OSCE remains a credible partner in combating trafficking and consequently strengthening the stability and security of our region.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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