



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 673 Vienna, 8 February 2012

#### EU Statement on the UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions

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Thank you, Madam Chairperson, thank you Guest-speakers!

The EU and its Member States are committed to the full implementation of UNSCR 1325. The EU has put in place a robust policy on women, peace and security, covering the security, political, humanitarian and development aspects of its external relations from crisis management to long-term reconstruction, funded by various instruments such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and the Instrument for Stability.

On 8 December 2008, the EU Council adopted the joint Commission and Council document 'Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security' as well as a revised operational document on the implementation of these resolutions specifically within the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The overall political framework of our action aims to ensure full coherence of the EU instruments and crisis management activities in the field of the implementation of the UNSCR 1325.

The first EU report on the indicators that measure the implementation of UNSCR 1325 was finalized in May 2011. It shows that the EU has taken concrete steps to enhance protection mechanisms for vulnerable groups, such as women and children, and provides a tool to track EU activity in this field, while also increasing accountability in light of prior commitments. The next report is due for 2013.

Thus, civilian and military crisis management plays a key role in the EU's implementation of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent UNSCRs on women, peace and security. There is a growing recognition within the CSDP of the importance and the added strategic and operational value of employing a gender perspective and focusing on related aspects.

In this context the EU has, since 2005, developed specific policy tools on mainstreaming gender into CSDP, highlighting the need to address gender in all phases of CSDP operations and missions, including by ensuring the availability of the necessary expertise in terms of personnel and training.

In 2010, the EU adopted its first Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development 2010-2015. This Plan aims at reinforcing coherence and coordination in order to improve the EU's work on gender in external action in order to have greater impact on the ground.

The EU and its Members States believe that the issue of women, peace and security needs to be promoted in a holistic manner, whereby action in the multilateral sphere, notably within the UN, or in a regional context within the OSCE, complements efforts taken at the local level in partner countries.

We have been involved in strongly promoting the significant role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building during the discussions which led to the adoption of the OSCE Ministerial Council (MC) Decision 3/11 on the elements of the conflict cycle, related to enhancing the OSCE's capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation and mediation support, and post-conflict rehabilitation. We urge all OSCE participating States to implement UNSCR 1325 by ensuring an increased representation of women at all levels in conflict resolution and peace processes, as laid down in MC Decision 3/11.

We believe the issue of gender constitutes an integral part of the politico-military activities of the OSCE. Therefore, we expanded the scope of our replies to the Questionnaire of the Code of Conduct to include information on women, peace and security and intend to do so also in future. We encourage all participating States to also include such information in their responses to the Questionnaire.

Furthermore, we would like to reiterate our readiness to engage actively in examining, within the FSC, ways of assisting in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions on gender and security in accordance with the OSCE MC Decision 7/11 on issues relevant to the FSC. In particular, we would encourage further action with respect to the implementation of the gender aspects of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW, as well as within the principles of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

Having recognised women's participation as an integral part of the empowerment of women in the politico-military dimension, we encourage the participating States to fully implement the 2004 OSCE Gender Action Plan.

We would like to take this opportunity to assure the FSC Chairmanship, and especially the newly appointed FSC Special coordinator on the implementation of

UNSCR 1325 Mr. Martin McInerney, of the full EU's support for his challenging undertakings in this field.

The acceding country CROATIA<sup>\*</sup>, the candidate countries THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO and ICELAND<sup>\*\*</sup>, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

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<sup>\*</sup> Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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