

**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2013  
Warsaw, 30 September 2013**

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**EU statement – Working Session 10  
HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND OTHER COMMITMENTS I;  
COMBATting TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

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Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its member States in this working session.

One decade after the adoption of the 2003 OSCE action plan its strategic objectives aiming at the eradication of trafficking in human beings remain still fully valid. Despite our numerous achievements of sustained efforts undertaken at the international, regional and national levels, we have to admit that trafficking in human beings is still a serious transnational threat and a grave violation of human rights and dignity. As new forms of this major crime have appeared, we need to adapt tools and ways to be able to prevent and combat all forms of exploitation. In this regard, we welcome that the OSCE Ukrainian chairmanship has included this issue of addressing trafficking in human beings among its priorities this year. In our closing statement at the high level conference organized in Kyiv last 10 and 11 June, we already had the opportunity to share with all participants our approach on

strengthening the OSCE response to trafficking in human beings. On the occasion of this human dimension event, we reconfirm that our efforts to tackle trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour as well as support for victims of human traffickers must not be wane. We attach a great importance to preventing the most vulnerable groups of victims, especially women and children.

Mr Chairman,

Earlier this year, the EU justice and Home Affair Council adopted conclusions on an EU framework for the provision of information on the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings. This will be used by victims and practitioners and will contribute to the effective realisation of their rights by helping authorities in EU member States to deliver the assistance and protection that victims need and deserve.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The EU reaffirms that close cooperation with the OSCE and other relevant international organisations is essential. However we cannot be successful in our endeavours without the active partnership of the civil society organisations. It is in this spirit the European Commission is preparing the second meeting of the EU Civil Society Platform on trafficking, in December this year, with

participants from NGOs from Slovenia, Albania, Morocco, Turkey and Ukraine. This event will be a tangible manifestation of one of the goals of the recently adopted EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016, namely strengthening the role of civil society and establishing enhanced coordination and cooperation among key actors and policy coherence.

Mr Chairman,

Finally let me thank the OSCE, the Special Representative Ms Giammarinaro and the ODIHR for their tireless efforts to tackle trafficking and let me assure the Organization of our full support in the future.

Thank you for your attention.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

*\* 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 the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.*