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OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting Warsaw, 21 September – 2 October 2015

EU Statement – Working Session 18

Thank you Mr/Madame Chairperson, for giving me the floor. I would like to begin my statement by making the following recommendations to participating States and the Executive Structures:

1. Participating States should take advantage of the services offered by OSCE Executive Structures in enhancing the implementation of commitments, including by facilitating visits and monitoring missions by the institutions
2. Participating States should take account of and follow up on recommendations made by the Executive Structures
3. Participating States should ensure timely adoption of the OSCE Unified Budget and provide more predictable extra budgetary contributions, in order to ensure that Executive Structures can properly plan their activities in good time
4. Executive Structures should continue to coordinate closely with each other and with other relevant international actors, such as the Council of Europe and the UN, to learn from each other's experiences, avoid duplication and bolster the impact of activities
5. When designing projects and activities, Executive Structures should foster close collaboration with civil society
6. Executive Structures should continue to improve the evaluation of their projects, including by using key performance indicators

Mr/Madame Chairperson,

The EU attaches the highest importance to the work of the OSCE in the human dimension. There is an unquestionable link between respect for our OSCE human



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dimension commitments and the attainment and maintenance of a comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security community.

To assist us in meeting our OSCE commitments, including in the human dimension, the participating States created the autonomous Institutions of ODIHR, RFoM and HCNM, and established operations in the field. The EU strongly supports the mandates of these Executive Structures and their efforts to provide assistance, support and training to participating States. We call on participating States to take advantage of the valuable experience and expertise that the Executive Structures have developed by inviting them to assist them in meeting their commitments. EU Member States have benefited greatly from such assistance on a range of issues, and we will continue to do so.

It is also important that participating States act on the recommendations provided by OSCE Executive Structures. During our regular discussions at the Human Dimension Committee, EU Member States have provided concrete examples of how they have turned OSCE recommendations into concrete action. We encourage other participating States to provide voluntary reports to the Human Dimension Committee as well.

Mr/Madame Chairperson

We take this opportunity to reiterate our firm support for the mandate and activities of the OSCE Executive Structures, in particular the autonomous institutions of ODIHR, the RFoM and HCNM. ODIHR's activities across its entire mandate are essential to promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the OSCE region. Its election work, in particular, is rightly prized as the international gold standard against which all others rate their own observation methodologies. The RFoM has been consistent in highlighting failures in implementing our media freedom commitments, and in stressing the dangers posed to journalists. Her Office has never shied away from



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highlighting problems wherever they appear, and we welcome the scrutiny that it sometimes places on our own countries. The HCNM continues to play a vital role in identifying and addressing short term triggers of inter-ethnic tension as well as long term structural concerns.

Mr/Madame Chairperson,

Project work is an important way for OSCE Executive Structures to engage with participating States and to assist them to implement our commonly-agreed commitments. In particular we would like to highlight the valuable work of the OSCE Executive Structures in response to the crisis in and around Ukraine. ODIHR is organising an important project to strengthen dialogue among civil society and key government stakeholders in Ukraine on human dimension issues. The conference organised by the RFoM on Safety of Journalists last June underlines the value of the Representative's work in this area, while the HCNM continues to provide valuable expertise to the Ukrainian authorities. The Project Coordinator's Office in Ukraine of course offers a wide range of assistance to the Ukrainian authorities.

These examples underline the importance of this type of work. The autonomous Institutions and field operations carry out projects throughout the entire OSCE region and in some of the partner countries. Since these projects ultimately benefit us all, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that these projects can be properly planned. We can make a major contribution to this by agreeing the unified budget every year in good time, and by providing predictable extrabudgetary funding.

It is also important that the Executive structures cooperate closely with each other, with other relevant international organisations, and with civil society to avoid duplication and maximise the impact of projects. They should also seek to increase project evaluation and employ key performance indicators to ensure projects are transparent and lessons can be learned for future projects.



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Thank you.

The Candidate Countries TURKEY, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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