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**EU Statement in Response to the Presentation by the Chair
of the Security Committee, H.E. Ambassador Dominic
Schroeder**

The European Union and its Member States thank Ambassador Schroeder, the new Chair of the Security Committee, for his interesting and informative presentation. We sincerely thank you for taking up this responsibility.

Over the last few years the OSCE has further strengthened its capacity in the area of Transnational Threats (TNTs) thanks to the creation of the Transnational Threats Department and the adoption of several fundamental framework decisions. The Security Committee played a crucial role in this process; it was able to reach consensus on a broad range of issues over the last few years.

We are confident that the Security Committee will remain equally dynamic under your chairmanship. We are sure that you and the Committee will work well together and that there will be lively and result-oriented discussions.

The fruitful dialogue that we are having in the Security Committee will also be useful to ensure follow-up to the Secretary General's report on implementation of MC Decision 4/12. In this context, we are looking forward to the presentation of the report by the Secretary General in the upcoming Committee meeting.

The thematic meetings that you are planning to organise are very pertinent. We fully support the idea that meetings this year should focus on the OSCE's own work. We would encourage further briefings by colleagues from the Secretariat and the OSCE Field Operations on relevant programs and activities. Of course, the OSCE is also a platform for cooperation with other actors. Therefore, we should also continue to work with other relevant international organisations active in the field of TNTs.

The Community Security Initiative or the projects on Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that lead to Terrorism (VERLT) are areas that are very good

examples of the OSCE's cross-dimensional approach to security and are worth being presented and discussed in the Security Committee. Border Management, especially related to Central Asia and Afghanistan, is also a topic that we are looking forward to discussing. The same is true for the issue of Countering Terrorist Financing/Kidnapping for Ransom, which will be on the agenda of the March Security Committee.

As you pointed out, the UN Security Council very recently adopted unanimously a resolution on kidnapping for ransom and called on other relevant international and regional organisations to continue expert discussions on this topic. Therefore, this topic also fits well with the Counter Terrorism Conference that the CiO is planning to hold in Interlaken in the end of April. We appreciate that the Conference will be closely linked to the Committee's work and that there will also be a follow-up discussion. We also encourage dialogue with partners in the framework of the Security Committee.

Implementation of the OSCE's TNT decisions will continue this year and is a priority for us. There is a continued need to ensure a cross-dimensional approach in addressing TNTs with full respect for the implementation of human dimension commitments. The Security Committee has an important role in overseeing the OSCE's activities on TNTs and in particular the implementation of the decisions taken in this field. In this context, it will be important to ensure synergies between the Security Committee and the Helsinki plus 40 process on TNTs, which could serve our work from a more longer-term perspective.

We need to continue to give special attention and support to the Informal Working Group on Cyber, including through the Security Committee. We welcome the reappointment of Ambassador Baer as Chair of the IWG. We are very satisfied with the adoption of the first set of Cyber CBMs by the PC in December 2013, which showed that the OSCE has taken the lead in an important new field of work. These are the first regional cyber CBMs. This year, these CBMs have to be implemented and we are also looking forward to further developing the first set of CBMs. We stand ready to engage on both.

In conclusion, the European Union wishes to thank Ambassador Schroeder for his commitment to the work of the Security Committee. We reiterate our support for the

work carried out by you. We assure you that we will continue to cooperate fully with you in your future endeavours. We wish you every success.

The Candidate Countries 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 countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, 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.