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**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE CLOSING PLENARY SESSION OF
THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 26 October 2010

Mr. Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to speak to you on behalf of the European Union at the closing plenary session of the Vienna segment of the 2010 OSCE Review Conference on politico-military, economic and environmental aspects and the OSCE structures and activities.

Following the sessions held in Warsaw in early October, we have made considerable progress in the preparations for the Summit to take place in Astana on 1 and 2 December. The European Union would like to begin by commending the Kazakh Chairmanship for all the work it has been doing at the head of our Organization, the delegations of Greece and Lithuania for their efforts in presiding over the working sessions and the Secretariat and the institutions for the excellent preparations and for their outstanding contributions, which have testified to their expertise.

The European Union is convinced that the many proposals made in Vienna will contribute towards fleshing out the agenda for the Astana Summit, whose outcome will, we hope, include a clear reaffirmation of our commitments and specific mandates for our future work, set forth in an action plan.

We have noted broad support for strengthening the Organization's capacities within the three dimensions in order to promote early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, *inter alia* in connection with protracted conflicts. This implies not only improving the OSCE structurally and technically, but also translating into operational terms the political will of the participating States, particularly in moving from early warning to early action.

We believe that the executive structures of the OSCE should be strengthened to allow us to work on crises at the earliest possible stage, notably through a strengthening of analytical, operational and mediation capacities, in particular those of the Conflict Prevention Centre. The OSCE's mechanisms and procedures should be re-examined, updated and supplemented where necessary. The capacities of the OSCE for moving from early warning to early action should be improved, particularly by strengthening the early warning role of the Secretary General and his right to make proposals. In addition, we should improve the role of the decision-making bodies of the OSCE, and especially of the Permanent Council, in

monitoring questions linked to conflicts. A lasting resolution of conflicts requires, among other things, a better understanding of the deep-seated roots of crises and conflicts. In this connection, the European Union favours the idea of establishing a civilian capacity for supporting peace and post-conflict rehabilitation.

We have also stressed that the peaceful settlement of frozen and emerging conflicts should be our common objective. The European Union would like to see the participating States, in Astana, establish in the action plan a road map for promoting the peaceful settlement of such conflicts. It would be appropriate here to reaffirm our support for the existing negotiation formats.

Mr. Chairperson,

Emphasis has also been placed on the strengthening of the framework for conventional arms control, including confidence- and security-building measures and progress on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. In Astana, we hope to be able to endorse the initial results in this regard and agree on a mandate for the continuation of the negotiations. Considering the positive work done in the setting of the Forum for Security Co-operation, we should also like to receive a clear mandate for continuing the modernization of the Vienna Document, aiming in the short term at a Vienna Document 2011.

With regard to transnational threats, we consider that more strategic use should be made of the added value possessed by the OSCE within the three dimensions, so as to develop a clearer and more visible profile in this respect. The European Union urges the Secretary General to take appropriate measures to improve co-ordination and coherence in the OSCE's activities on transnational threats at the internal level, within the executive structures of the Organization, and externally, with the multilateral and other organizations concerned. At the internal level, these measures could take several forms: gathering together these capacities under the authority of a director, placing them under the supervision of a co-ordinator or establishing a particular mechanism for co-ordination. We should also review the strategic documents and the engagement of the OSCE in this field, including its engagement with Afghanistan, adopt a strategy concerning police activities and explore the need to adopt other strategic documents, in particular on cyber security, organized crime and the combating of drug trafficking.

In the view of the European Union, the second dimension has an essential role to play in the conflict cycle and efforts to counter transnational threats. Firstly, the OSCE's activities in the second dimension offer a vast panoply of confidence-building measures. Secondly, the OSCE area is facing economic and environmental threats. The European Union believes that the Secretariat must possess the capacities to provide participating States with an in-depth analysis of these threats.

Overall, while it is true that co-operation among participating States on economic and environmental matters has made substantial progress since the Helsinki Final Act, the Review Conference has revealed that not all the aspects of the 1990 Bonn Document have been implemented. In particular, good governance is a field in which progress will still be necessary.

Across the board and during all the sessions, the need was repeatedly stressed to strengthen the implementation and follow-up of OSCE norms, principles and commitments.

In the European Union's view, this requires a strengthening of the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media and strong support for the essential work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the activities of the Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

All these improvements should benefit from the proposals for further increasing the Secretariat's effectiveness and thus making the Organization more operational in the face of new security risks and challenges. It is for this reason that we favour the idea of giving more prerogatives to the Secretary General and the Chairmanship so that they can take operational decisions in times of crisis, including the sending of teams of experts to the areas affected. The European Union also supports proposals for ensuring improved continuity in the decision-making process and in the OSCE's activities. Lastly, the European Union recalls the need to adopt the draft convention on the Organization's legal personality as soon as possible, and the fact that we are ready to talk about a constituent document on condition that it is not in any way detrimental to the vast field of existing commitments of the OSCE.

Mr. Chairperson,

This Review Conference has thus allowed us to evaluate the way in which we are contributing to our common security. In the view of the European Union, common security requires, *inter alia*, strong ties with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, with our Partners for Co-operation and with international organizations and civil society, which implies regular consultations and participation in each other's events and activities, together with an increased exchange of good practices.

In this context, the European Union welcomes the fact that all the non-governmental organizations so requesting were finally able to participate in the relevant sessions of the Review Conference in Vienna.

With the help of the lessons learned during the Review Conference, the European Union will participate actively in the drafting of the Astana Document. In this connection, we are grateful to the Kazakh Chairmanship for its first draft text, distributed on Friday, 22 October. Together, thanks to improved mutual understanding and trust, we shall be in a position to evolve towards a future security community.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The candidate countries Croatia¹, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ and Iceland², the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway and the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

1 Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area.