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EU statement in response to the update by the Secretary General on migration-related activities

The EU and its Member States welcome this update on migration-related activities. This continues to be an important topic for us and we are interested in following the steps taken to make the OSCE engagement more coherent.

This update acts as a useful reminder of the activities already undertaken by the OSCE's executive structures, in particular field operations, to address the current challenge of the migration and refugee crisis. We welcome these efforts to improve coherence and coordination of OSCE activities, both among OSCE entities, while respecting existing mandates and in a way that complements efforts of other organisations.

The large movements of refugees and migrants confront us with one of the major human security challenges of our time and thus calls for political attention. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and its role as a regional platform for dialogue merits a place for the OSCE in the international efforts led by the UN. The EU and its Member States are therefore supportive of having a Ministerial Council text in Hamburg on the OSCE's role in addressing the large movements of migrants and refugees. Such a decision would also give direction for the OSCE's future work and useful guidance for OSCE executive structures on the basis of a comprehensive, cross-dimensional and cooperative approach within existing mandates and resources.

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

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