

FSC.DEL/95/15
20 May 2015

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 789th MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

Vienna, 20 May 2015

On the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540

The European Union (EU) welcomes H.E. Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Chair of the United Nations Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) (the 1540 Committee). We thank you for your contribution to the security dialogue, particularly in the context of the comprehensive review on the status of implementation of the resolution, to be held by 2016. We shall do our utmost to participate in its success, both as EU Member States and as OSCE participating States.

We should like to confirm that, for us, resolution 1540 and its related resolutions are a key element of the international architecture of non-proliferation, as well as an essential tool in the international fight against terrorism. These resolutions have also helped to involve non-State actors in countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which today is still one of the major objectives of the international community and the EU.

The EU, as is well known, firmly supports the real and effective implementation of resolution 1540, in order to strengthen the global and regional efforts to prevent the acquisition and use of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and materials, and their means of delivery, by non-State actors. In particular, Council of the European Union decision 2013/391/CFSP on the implementation of resolution 1540 recommends close co-operation between the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the OSCE and other relevant international organizations and agencies to develop synergies and avoid duplication.

The EU welcomes the important contribution made by the 1540 Committee and its expert group to the implementation of resolution 1540 and related resolutions. We reaffirm our full commitment to and support for the 1540 Committee, whose mandate has been extended to 2021. We should also like to underscore the importance of regular reports on the implementation of this resolution at the national level and the adoption of national implementation action plans.

We stress the need to implement resolution 1540, in particular to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of non-State actors and terrorist groups. All EU Member States have submitted a report to the 1540 Committee on the implementation of resolution 1540, and several have developed national action plans.

We applaud the joint efforts of the EU, its Member States and the OSCE. We think that this co-operation should be strengthened, and that it should focus on the development of practical activities such as, *inter alia*, helping participating States, at their request, to prepare national reports and action plans, draw up implementing legislation, facilitate information-sharing, promote good practices and strengthen information exchange relating to the implementation of resolution 1540, within multilateral networks.

In this context, we support the ongoing activities and efforts of the OSCE executive structures to aid those participating States which so request to implement resolution 1540. For this reason, we welcome the draft Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) decision on the OSCE role in the implementation of resolution 1540, proposed by the delegations of Belarus and Armenia. We are ready to continue the constructive dialogue with the aim of reaching consensus.

We are very pleased to see that no fewer than 12 OSCE participating States updated their national reports in 2014 and that many others are in the process of doing so. We also welcome the introduction of a peer review system, on the initiative of Poland and Croatia, and we note with satisfaction that other participating States have expressed their intention to follow that example. Co-operation among the participating States and OSCE support for those States that request it help consolidate such initiatives for the implementation of resolution 1540.

These observations only strengthen our conviction that the OSCE's role and resources for the implementation of resolution 1540 and related resolutions must be maintained in a sustainable manner. Indeed, recent events have proved that the threats connected with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials are quite real and must be reckoned with. This applies in particular to the security of radioactive sources, in view of the thefts seen in some countries, and the repeated attempts by certain non-State actors to use such materials for malevolent purposes.

Lastly, we should like to thank the Montenegrin Chairmanship of the FSC for giving us the opportunity today to discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 in the OSCE region.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Iceland² and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Andorra, align themselves with this statement.

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

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