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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 798th MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

30 September 2015

Regarding the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to welcome to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Ms. Rhonda Evans of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We appreciate the opportunity we have been given to hear and learn more about how co-operation between the IAEA and the OSCE could be strengthened. We applaud the outstanding work of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the implementation of resolution 1540 in the nuclear field.

We should like to stress 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 State actors in countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that may land in the hands of non-State actors, which today is still one of the major objectives of the international community and the EU. Recent events have shown that threats linked to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are very real, and we must remain vigilant in this area.

The EU reiterates its firm support for the practical and effective implementation of resolution 1540 in order to strengthen national, regional and international efforts to prevent the acquisition and use of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and materials, and their means of delivery, by non-State actors. It is within this framework that 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 reaffirms its full commitment and support to the 1540 Committee, whose mandate has been extended until 2021. We should like to underscore the importance of regular reports on the implementation of this resolution at the national level and of the adoption of national Action Plans as well as the Comprehensive Review of resolution 1540, which should be completed in 2016.

We feel the implementation of resolution 1540 is necessary in the fight against armed non-State actors and terrorist groups in order to prevent weapons of mass destruction or the

means for producing them from falling into their hands. All EU Member have submitted a report to the 1540 Committee on the implementation of resolution 1540, and several have developed national Action Plans, which are periodically updated.

We welcome the joint efforts of the EU, its Member States and the OSCE. This co-operation, which is essential for the implementation of resolution 1540, should be focused on the development of practical activities such as helping participating States, at their request, to prepare national reports and Action Plans, draw up national legislation on implementation, promote good practices and strengthen information exchange relating to the implementation of resolution 1540.

In this context, we support the ongoing activities and efforts of the OSCE executive structures to assist those participating States that so request to implement resolution 1540. We welcome the FSC decision on the OSCE's role in the implementation of this resolution, which was adopted on 22 July. We also welcome the updating of national reports by several OSCE participating States and the promising initiative of Poland and Croatia in favour of the introduction of a peer review mechanism. Co-operation among the participating States and OSCE support for requesting States consolidate such initiatives for the implementation of resolution 1540. As Ms. Evans mentioned, we also believe that closer collaboration between the IAEA and the OSCE would certainly benefit the OSCE participating States. We recommend that this possibility be studied by the two Secretariats. The OSCE has gained experience through its support for the preparation and implementation of national plans and thanks to the directory of national and OSCE Points of Contact for United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. This experience should contribute to the Comprehensive Review of resolution 1540 next year.

The European Union firmly believes that the OSCE's role and resources should be strengthened to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 and related resolutions in a sustainable manner.

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

The candidate countries Montenegro¹ and Iceland², 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, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

1 Montenegro continues 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.