

## Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Special Permanent Council No. 802  
Vienna, 8 April 2010**

### **EU statement in response to the Secretary-General of the United Nations H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon's address to the Permanent Council**

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The European Union welcomes H.E. the Secretary-General of the United Nations and thanks him for his inspiring and thought-provoking statement. We would also like to thank the Chairman in Office for organising this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

The European Union has recently examined the implementation of its Security Strategy from 2003 and is engaging substantively with partners in the dialogue that is taking place in the OSCE on the future of European security. We are also in the process of implementing the Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force on December 1 2009. Effective multilateralism in the United Nations system is at the heart of our endeavours in all of these contexts.

This goes for our work at the UN in New York, Geneva and elsewhere. But it also goes very much for our cooperation with the UN family in Vienna and indeed for the interaction of the OSCE with the Vienna-based UN organisations. From the perspective of the OSCE, institutions such as the UNODC need to be strong in strategic vision and capabilities to provide advice in order to help Member States to make the right priorities.

The EU notes with interest your comments on Central Asia. In this context we would like to draw your attention to HR Ashton's statement and the statement of the Chairperson in Office on recent unrest in Kyrgyzstan. The European Union has followed with deep concern the developments in Kyrgyzstan over the last few days. We deplore in particular the violence and the loss of lives that has occurred and will take the opportunity to comment more extensively in the special PC later today.

Regional organizations also strengthen global governance. The EU, the OSCE and the UN share such values as peace, prosperity, freedom, democracy, the rule of law and the universality and indivisibility of human rights. The OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, is committed to implementing the Purposes and Principles of the Charter.

In order for the OSCE to operate in a more effective way, the EU attaches great value to providing the OSCE with a legal personality.

UN-EU cooperation in crisis management is a particularly relevant aspect, often in cooperation with the OSCE in the field. Examples of this complementarity and synergy between the EU, the OSCE and the UN can be found in many areas: in the Balkans, in particular through the OSCE Mission to Kosovo, established in accordance with UNSCR 1244; in the South Caucasus, where UN, OSCE and EU co-chair the Geneva talks; and in Central Asia, with the cooperation between EU, OSCE and the UN. With the increasing complexity and number of peacekeeping operations worldwide, the EU strongly supports the Secretary-General's efforts to renew the global UN peacekeeping partnership.

Another area of cooperation is in the field of trans-national and multidimensional threats and challenges, increasingly complex and interconnected, and requiring, more than ever, common responses.

As far as terrorism is concerned, the OSCE should continue to support the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as ratification and implementation of UN counterterrorism conventions.

We are determined to address more effectively, in coordination with other relevant international actors, the challenges of organised crime, including the trafficking of drugs, persons and weapons, in close cooperation with other relevant international actors, especially the Vienna-based UN Office on Drugs and Crime. We also appreciate the increased efforts by the UN Security Council to tackle these transnational threats to international peace and security.

In this context, together with other relevant international partners, the EU seeks enhanced effectiveness in efforts to stabilise Afghanistan, a long term commitment for Europe. Stability, security and development in this country are closely linked to the overall situation in the region; therefore cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours, several of them OSCE participating States, is key. We are glad to see that January's London Conference underlined that the regional dimension is an important pillar of the overall stabilization of Afghanistan.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the OSCE has played a significant role in enhancing the security in its area, but twenty years after the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and ten years after the adoption of the Charter of European Security in Istanbul, Europe has undergone sweeping changes, and so has its strategic environment.

Thus the EU attaches great importance to the Corfu Process. We want the OSCE to play a more significant role in dealing with current and future challenges in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area. Our highest priority in this ongoing dialogue, as stated in the relevant ministerial Declaration, remains to re-establish our trust and confidence, as well as to recapture the sense of common purpose that brought together our predecessors in Helsinki 35 years ago. This is all the more pertinent in view of regional conflicts and other serious security concerns in the OSCE region. The EU is fully committed to achieve a well balanced outcome, which must bring progress in all three OSCE dimensions.

In the framework of the Corfu Process, we should also reinforce the interaction of the OSCE with other relevant regional organisations, based on the Platform for Cooperative Security and its requirement to adhere to the principles of the UN Charter and the OSCE Principles and commitments, as set out in the Helsinki Final Act and other Documents.

As far as arms control and confidence and security building measures are concerned, we can build upon our unique network of treaties, commitments, decisions, norms and measures in particular the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Open Skies Treaty and the 1999 Vienna Document. . There is a need for a strong and functioning regime of conventional arms control in Europe. Arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building measures are essential parts of a comprehensive and cooperative security in Europe. The OSCE already plays a role in the context of non proliferation, a top priority for the EU, in particular through promoting full implementation of UNSCR 1540 by OSCE participating States and increased cooperation with the 1540 Committee of the Security Council. The EU takes with the utmost seriousness the responsibility to support efforts to move forward on these issues.

Mr. Chairman,

The OSCE should support the UN's economic and environmental strategies. One good example is the mutual reinforcement between

the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the OSCE. These two institutions, with almost identical membership, are long-standing natural partners, sharing common objectives.

Another example where we see potential for mutual reinforcement is Climate Change, and its security implications. The link between security and Climate Change has been recognized both in debate in the UN Security Council and in the OSCE Madrid Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Security in 2007. It was further developed in the EU Solana-Ferrero-Waldner report in 2008, and in the very important UNGA Resolution 63/281 “Climate Change and its possible security implications” of 2009, which enjoyed consensus by all UN Member States. The UN Secretary-General’s subsequent report, in turn, invited action by regional organizations such as the OSCE to address this climatic “threat-multiplier”.

A third example is the ENVSEC initiative, where the OSCE and several UN agencies are partners in their efforts to promote peace through environmental cooperation in Central Asia, the Caucasus, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe.

Mr. Chairman,

Promoting respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, the rule of law and for human rights, in conformity with the UN Charter and international law, is of fundamental importance to, and a priority for the European Union. Questions relating to Human Rights Defenders, abolition of death penalty and prevention of torture are

also important to the EU, the OSCE and the UN. All human rights are universal and the obligation to protect and promote them applies equally to all States.

The OSCE has developed a comprehensive set of commitments in the human dimension, but the main challenge continues to be how to better implement them. A dialogue on the future of European security should include an unequivocal re-statement of our commitments on human rights, democracy and tolerance, and examine ways to improve their implementation.

An important area of the OSCE's work relates to the promotion of democracy and democratic elections. Based on our solid acquis of commitments in this area, the OSCE/ODIHR has been able to take on a leading role in the field of election observation. On this topic, the EU is especially pleased that during last year's UN General Assembly, a resolution on "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization" was adopted. This referred to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Observers, to which the EU fully adheres.

The EU pays special attention to gender equality, the promotion of which is one of our main priorities, as it is for the UN. In this regard, we welcome the recent appointment of Ms Margot Wallström as UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The EU is interested in exploring further ways of cooperation in implementing the Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security,

especially resolution 1325 and increasing women's participation in peace processes and security policy.

The EU and its Member States will continue to support the objectives of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Initiative and its delivery of substantive projects with a cross-cultural band. We are looking forward to the presentation of the Plan of Action for South-Eastern Europe at the Third Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations that will take place in Rio next month.

Mr Chairman,

The security agenda we face is large and complex. It requires joint action and political will in order to move beyond zero-sum approaches and achieve our full potential, based on our agreed OSCE principles and commitments. We reiterate that the EU is open to a high-level meeting within the OSCE provided it is motivated by substance.

The presence today of the Secretary-General of the United Nations is an incentive to increase our efforts and to move ahead in our ambitious, yet concrete and pragmatic goals.

We would like to conclude by thanking H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon for addressing this PC today. We wish him well in his extraordinarily challenging task.



Los países candidatos CROACIA\* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA\*; los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA; los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA y LIECHTENSTEIN; al igual que la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA suman a esta declaración.

\*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.