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EU statement in response to the presentations on the UNSCR 1540

The European Union warmly welcomes and thanks Guy Roberts, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Weapons of Mass Destruction Policy for NATO and Tom Wuchte, UN 1540 Coordinator at the US State Department Bureau of International Security & Nonproliferation for their comprehensive and timely presentations on the implementation of UNSCR 1540. The EU considers these presentations to be a part of the OSCE effort to support the Resolution. This effort has been expressed through OSCE participating States' adoption of FSC Decision No. 7/05 and Decision No. 6/06, Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/06 as well as the recent FSC Decision 7/09 on Best practice Guide on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 Export Controls and Transshipment.

The UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 was adopted on 28 April 2004 as a first international instrument dealing with weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials in an integrated and comprehensive manner. It plays a crucial role in developing an effective mechanism of prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of production and delivery to or from states and non-state actors world-wide. In addition, the UNSCR 1810, adopted in April 2008 conveys specific responsibilities to regional organizations.

The UNSCR 1540 gives a strong legal basis to the EU's efforts to tackle proliferation by explicitly addressing illicit trafficking and procurement networks, and in particular, the involvement of non-state actors in the proliferation of WMD technology set out in the EU strategy against the proliferation of Weapons of mass destruction.

The EU has been active in ensuring the full implementation of UNSCR 1540 both internally, inter alia through regular updates of its European Community regulation on export controls on dual-use goods, and externally, by promoting, and providing assistance to achieve, the full implementation of UNSCR 1540 in third countries. In this regard the EU adopted in May 2008 a second Joint Action in support of UNSCR 1540 aimed at strengthening the skills and capacities of third countries' state officials involved in the export control process. We also undertake other activities in this context under the EU WMD Strategy of 2003 which was complemented in 2008 by the EU New Lines for Action in combating the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their means of delivery focusing on very concrete action-oriented projects to be undertaken by the end of 2010. Also, the EU Instrument for Stability foresees around €300m being spent on CBRN cooperation with third countries in the period 2007-2013.

As was pointed out at the Comprehensive Review on the Status of the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540, held in New York between 30 September and 2 October 2009, the EU assistance to ensure full implementation of UNSCR 1540 is also provided through the assistance programmes under the 2005 and 2006 Pilot Project programme of the European Commission focusing on the enhancement of national export controls systems. Assistance and ad hoc missions have been provided so far to a number of OSCE participating States in the framework of the Project.

The European Union has listened with great interest to the presentations in today's session and undertakes to engage positively in bringing the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and 1810 forward. The EU believes that the OSCE, as a regional organization, has a significant role to play in this regard. The EU supports OSCE

efforts to enhance implementation of UNSCR 1540 and 1810, including through information sharing, enhanced co-operation with the 1540 Committee and further work on the Best Practices Guides, and welcomes the opportunity of sharing experience and lessons learned during today's presentations. It looks forward also to positive engagement in future OSCE work to assist participating States with full implementation of the Resolution.

We urge all States to comply with and fully implement the legally binding obligations of this resolution, and resolutions 1673 and 1810. We fully support the 1540 Committee's efforts to fulfil its renewed mandate.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, 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 ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.