



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2013
Warsaw, 24 September 2013**

**EU statement – Working Session 3
TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION II (CONTINUED)**

Madam/Mister Moderator,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We would like to thank the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues Ms June Zeitlin and Ambassador Miroslava Beham, Senior Advisor on Gender Issues, for their comprehensive reports throughout the year.

We welcome the Gender Section's plans to enhance the implementation of the OSCE 2004 Gender Action Plan-by setting out priorities and creating action plans to take these priorities forward. We are willing to engage in this work.

The EU and its Member States consider gender mainstreaming to be a strategy that is crucial for reaching the goal of equality and call on the OSCE and participating states to integrate the gender perspective into every stage of their policy processes. For this purpose we encourage the OSCE to take advantage of the

European Institute for Gender Equality. The increase of gender mainstreamed projects across the OSCE, especially in the work of field operations, is highly appreciated. It is also important to recognize that the development of specific Gender Action Plans for field operations, as well as the recruitment of specific Gender Advisors, has progressed.

We wish to highlight the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolutions No 1325, 1820 and its follow-up resolutions. We encourage both the OSCE and all participating States to incorporate the commitments of UNSCR 1325 and Ministerial Council Decision 14/05 into their respective policies, including by adopting national action plans for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 as well as by requesting women's participation at all stages of the OSCE's efforts in the fields of peace-building and democratization.

We would also like to stress the need to implement MC.DEC/15/05 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, including by developing programmes and activities aimed at the prevention of all forms of gender-based violence.

Finally, we would like to reiterate the four main recommendations of the EU with regard to promoting gender equality:

- 1) Continue mainstreaming of gender issues in OSCE policies and activities, with a focus on the cross-dimensionality of gender

issues;

- 2) Adopt an OSCE-Wide Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, as well as develop further the tools for implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality;
- 3) Take concrete steps to ensure that field missions have the capacity to implement the OSCE gender commitments;
- 4) Increase focus on tackling violence against women and girls, particularly those that are most prevalent such as domestic violence, and involve men and boys in gender equality promotion activities.

The Candidate Countries, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.