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## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 818th MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

4 May 2016

### **On the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)**

The European Union (EU) and its Member States welcome Mr. Francisco Javier Sanabria Valderrama, Director General for the United Nations and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Spain; Mr. Javier Gutiérrez, Assistant to the Chair of the United Nations Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) (the 1540 Committee); and Ambassador Beata Pełka, Non-Proliferation Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We appreciate the opportunity we have been given to listen and learn more about ways of strengthening the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

The EU and its Member States reiterate their support for that resolution and its subsequent resolutions, which represent the cornerstone of non-proliferation and are in line with the principles of co-operation and comprehensive security underpinning the OSCE. We encourage universal adoption of the international non-proliferation treaties. We express our deep concern at the risk of proliferation of and illicit trafficking in weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their means of delivery and related materials. The potential for non-State actors to acquire WMD makes it more urgent than ever to implement these non-proliferation principles and to strengthen the international fight against terrorism.

The EU reiterates its firm support for the practical and effective implementation of resolution 1540, in order to strengthen the efforts at the national, regional and international levels to prevent non-State actors from acquiring and using nuclear, biological or chemical weapons, their means of delivery, and related materials.

The EU reaffirms its full attachment to and support for the 1540 Committee, whose mandate has been extended to 2021. We should like to underscore the importance of national implementation reports and the adoption of national action plans in the application of this resolution. We further encourage each of the participating States to take an active part in the Comprehensive Review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540, which should be finished by the end of this year. This process would benefit from granting an active role to the 1540 Committee in co-ordinating the offers of and requests for assistance made by States.

The full implementation of resolution 1540 is essential. All EU Member States have submitted at least one report on the resolution's implementation to the 1540 Committee, and several of them have drawn up national action plans which are updated periodically. As part of the Comprehensive Review, the EU will presently submit a new report to the

1540 Committee, stating, on the one hand, the actions taken in the past ten years, and, on the other hand, the EU's proposals for the future development of resolution 1540. Furthermore, the EU has recently begun to reach out to the 17 States that have not yet submitted their first report on the measures they have taken or plan to take to implement the resolution to the 1540 Committee.

We support the OSCE's involvement in concrete projects. For example, the Organization is assisting in a joint effort to eliminate dangerous chemical products within the OSCE area and is carrying out practical activities, such as helping those participating States that so request to draw up national reports and action plans, draft national implementing legislation, promote good practices and enhance information-sharing concerning the implementation of resolution 1540. On the basis of this experience, we encourage the OSCE and its participating States to make a substantial contribution to this year's Comprehensive Review from a regional perspective. The Council of the EU is currently considering a draft decision on a multi-year programme of support for the full implementation and universal adoption of resolution 1540. The OSCE will be called upon to play a key role in the implementation of this Council decision, which is expected to be adopted during the second half of 2016.

As a forum for dialogue, the FSC has its own means of supporting the implementation of resolution 1540. Some are already in place, such as the OSCE Points of Contact, which meet every year and are an integral part of the 1540 Committee's network. We also commend all those participating States which, out of concern for transparency, publish and update their reports on the implementation of resolution 1540. The same applies to the promising initiative taken by Poland and Croatia to introduce a peer review mechanism, and to its successful implementation. A Group of Friends of resolution 1540 was set up in the autumn of 2015 to discuss actions that could be taken by the OSCE to counter the proliferation of WMD.

We thank Belarus for its work as the FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues. We congratulate the Spanish Chair of the 1540 Committee on his ability to rekindle the dialogue among all stakeholders, and we assure the Spanish delegation of our support in its efforts.

The EU is convinced that the OSCE's role and resources should be used to promote the sustainable implementation of resolution 1540 and its subsequent resolutions.

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

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, Serbia<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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