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## Swedish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation No. 592  
Vienna 27 October 2009**

### **EU Statement in response to the presentations on the topic of “Gender – responsive Disarmament”**

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The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes Vanessa Farr, Senior Adviser on gender issues, UNDP and Sarah Masters, Women’s Network Co-ordinator, IANSA to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thanks them for their interesting presentations on the topic “Gender – responsive Disarmament”.

The EU also welcomes the concrete recommendations and proposals put forward in the presentations and commits itself to study them carefully, particularly in the context of related suggestions made at the meeting held to Review the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons held on 22-23 September, 2009 in Vienna.

We attach great importance to the participating States’ commitment to proactively implement the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and recall the Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 14/05 on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation and 15/05 on preventing and combating violence against women.

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The European Union stands fully committed to the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCR) 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 on women, peace and security. However, we are convinced there must be a coherent strategy for the whole area of protection of women and promotion of women's rights and empowerment. Women's participation is needed in all processes, at all levels. We need an all embracing approach to bring the system together for coordinated actions and improved impact.

For the process of implementing UNSCR 1325, it is important to develop adequate tools of accountability, including National Action Plans. In line with the 2008 "EU Comprehensive Approach to implement Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820", the EU is committed to stepping up efforts in the implementation of 1325, and to translating these efforts into real impact on the ground. Our ambition is to be well prepared for October 2010, when the international community will celebrate the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, in a ministerial review conference. At the same time, the European Union is interested in continuing discussions with partner countries and partner regional organisations on "Women and peace and security" and on co-operation and improved effectiveness for UNSCR 1325.

The candidate countries TURKEY and CROATIA\*, 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, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ARMENIA align themselves with this statement.

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