



## **European Union**

**Statement by**

**Mr Andras Kos, Minister Counsellor,  
Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

**Meetings of the Standing Committees  
of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines  
(Geneva, 27-30 May 2013)**

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**Standing Committee on the General Status and  
Operation of the Convention**

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**Geneva, 27 May 2013**

**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

27 May 2013

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EU Statement  
(27 May 2013)**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The following countries align themselves with this declaration: Croatia\*, Turkey§, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland‡, Serbia\*, Albania\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

The European Union is pleased to see the significant progress made in the fight against the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines in recent years. In particular, we warmly welcome Poland's accession to the Ottawa Convention. All EU Member States are now Parties to the Convention. This reinforces our determination and commitment to achieve our zero-victim target and, ultimately, a world free of anti-personnel mines.

The Review Conference in Cartagena gave renewed impetus to our common efforts to reach the objectives of the Convention. To support the full and effective implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan, the European Union adopted, on 13 November 2012, a new Council Decision in support of the implementation of the Action Plan, thus emphasising the commitment of the European Union to pursue the Convention's vision of a conclusive end to the suffering and the casualties caused by anti-personnel landmines.

The objectives of the Council Decision focus on promoting the universalization of the Convention, as well as on supporting the efforts of the States Parties for the implementation of their commitments on mine clearance and victim assistance. We will revert to these topics during the meetings of the respective Standing Committees. The total amount for the implementation of the Council Decision is more than 1 million EUR and comes on top of the major financial commitments undertaken by the EU with respect to mine action in individual countries in 2012. The technical implementation of the Council Decision is entrusted to the ISU of the Convention.

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\* Accessing Country Croatia and the Candidate countries former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

§ Candidate Country

‡ Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

With respect to Universalisation, the Council Decision provides resources for significant engagement by a High Level Task Force on the Universalisation of the Convention. The High Level Task Force will engage with leaders of up to six States not party to the Convention. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Mired of Jordan and Colombian pop-star Juanes for joining this Task Force. In the coming days we will make an announcement regarding the third task force member, whom many of you will already know as a dedicated individual lending her support to mine action.

Furthermore, the EU Council Decision will fund a study on border security without the use of anti-personnel mines, thus addressing one of specific concerns raised at the Cartagena Summit. The ISU has been in discussions with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces and the OSCE on collaborating on this initiative.

The Council Decision also provides support for up to three national, sub-regional or regional workshops to advance the Universalisation of the Convention.

At this stage, we seek interested States not Party which would welcome engagement by a high level envoy who is being supported by the European Union. In addition, if a State not party is in the course of reassessing its position on the Convention and believes it would benefit from a national workshop, the ISU would be pleased to discuss how it could provide support.

It is our firm belief that through these projects the European Union, in cooperation with key partners, will be able to provide a practical and substantial contribution to the common efforts to make progress towards universal accession of the Convention, revitalise advocacy and enhance our common knowledge, and thus prepare well for the Third Review Conference in Maputo next year.

Thank you