



**European Union**  
Statement by

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

**Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the  
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
(Geneva, 30 November-4 December 2015)**

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**International Cooperation and Assistance**

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**Geneva, 2 December 2015**

**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

**Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the  
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
EU statement on international cooperation and assistance  
2 December 2015**

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Union.

The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

Mr President,

We thank the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for their conclusions and recommendations and for their work over this past year. International cooperation and assistance is an important part of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and represents a shared commitment to assist States Parties in fulfilling their obligations. The European Union remains committed to supporting States Parties to this end.

The EU concurs with the view reaffirmed in the Maputo Action Plan that the Convention's shared goals can be advanced with enhanced ownership by States and by improved international cooperation between States seeking assistance and those that can provide it. It is also necessary that mine-affected countries prioritise mine action in their requests for assistance. In addition to cooperation with governments at national level, international cooperation is essential to the success of work on the ground and to increase the impact of the different kinds of support that can be made available.

It is also our belief that international cooperation and assistance can be best accomplished if cooperation with other international mechanisms pertinent in different countries can be developed, thus ensuring full usage and interdependence of different programmes and projects and creating a coherent operational framework to serve this purpose.

Anti-personnel mine issues and mine action are often a cross-border problem. The EU considers that international and regional organisations may make an important contribution to facilitate mine action between neighbouring States. This cooperation has the potential to be more cost effective and provide useful confidence-building measures between neighbouring countries or regions.

The EU, through a number of projects, which include universalisation, mine clearance and victim assistance activities, supports the implementation of the Convention.

Beyond these projects, the EU and its Member States continue to provide significant contributions to mine action projects in heavily affected countries and areas of the world through other mechanisms as well. This important support, which makes the EU and its Member States the leading donor in this area, is contributing to reconstruction and economic and social development of mine affected countries.

The EU signed in 2014 new contracts to implement projects in several areas of the world, such as in Angola, Colombia, Lao PDR, Palestine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia/Croatia, Turkey and Ukraine, amounting to a total of more than 60 million Euro concerning mine clearance, capacity building, mine risk education and stockpile destruction projects, among others.

The European Union will continue to cooperate with and, where possible, extend assistance to those States Parties that most need support in meeting their commitments under the Convention, and to non-States Parties that significantly support mine action. This will continue to be carried out in coordination with other donors and in close cooperation with the countries concerned.

Thank you