



**Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union**

**By**

**H.E Mr Thomas Mayr-Harting**

**Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

**67<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly  
Fifth Committee**

**Report of the Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing  
countries and other related issues**

**United Nations  
New York**

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**-AS DELIVERED-**

Mr Chairman,

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

The Acceding country Croatia<sup>\*</sup>, the candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>\*</sup>, Montenegro<sup>\*</sup>, Iceland<sup>+</sup> and Serbia<sup>\*</sup>, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank the Head of the Department of Field Support, Under Secretary General Ms Ameerah Haq, for presenting the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the report of the Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and other related issues, and would also like to thank Mr Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of ACABQ, for presenting the report of that Committee. We would also like to express our particular thanks to Madame Louise Frechette, Chair of the Senior Advisory Group, and to the members of the group, for their report and for dedicating their time and expertise to this truly important task.

Mr Chairman,

The issues the Senior Advisory Group considered are important and sensitive. We therefore welcome the constructive and positive spirit in which the SAG discussions were conducted and that the SAG Chair was able to forward a final report, to the Secretary General and to the Member States, whose analysis and recommendations, to quote her, "reflect a full consensus" of the whole Group. We hope we can take forward our deliberations in the same spirit of partnership and shared interest in supporting strong and effective UN peacekeeping operations.

The Member States of the European Union have a specific interest in supporting strong and effective UN peacekeeping: almost all Member States of the EU are not only important

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<sup>\*</sup> Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>+</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.

financial contributors but also support peacekeeping on the ground, both with uniformed personnel and other capabilities. Also, the European Union as a regional organisation has a well-established role to play in the advancement of peace and security which translates into daily cooperation with the UN and with other regional organisations like the African Union. The Member States of the European Union therefore call upon all actors involved in peacekeeping to take this unique opportunity to revitalise our partnership with this important report.

We would like to emphasise once more the interdependent nature of the various recommendations in the SAG report. They are an integral package. None of us will see everything we want reflected in the report but the consensus behind the report's recommendations is an important reflection of our partnership on peacekeeping, and a chance to renew it. As such, we firmly believe that it represents our best and only chance of finding a sustainable, long-term solution to this issue and of avoiding a return to the difficult debates of the past. We are therefore ready to endorse the integral package that has been presented to us.

I thank you Mr Chairman.