



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

**by**

**Mr. Jan De Preter**

**Counsellor**

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

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**Fifth Committee**

**Item 139: Pattern of Conferences**

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Monsieur le Président,

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom des États membres de l'Union européenne.

La Turquie, l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine\*, le Monténégro\*, la Serbie\* et l'Albanie\*, pays candidats, ainsi que la République de Moldavie, l'Arménie et la Géorgie se rallient à la présente déclaration.

Nous aimerions commencer par remercier M. Abbas Yazdani, Vice-Président du Comité des Conférences, Mme. Catherine Pollard, Sous-Secrétaire Générale au Département de l'Assemblée générale et de la gestion des conférences, et M. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Président du Comité Consultatif pour les Questions Administratives et Budgétaires, pour l'introduction des rapports respectifs sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Mister Chairman,

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Secretariat aiming at improving and modernizing the conference and language services of the Organization, especially through innovative approaches. In this regard, we welcome in particular the progress made in the development and implementation of new conference management software, as well as the increasing use of modern technologies. We look forward to receiving further information on the benefits these initiatives can bring to the Member States and to the UN system as a whole.

In connection with the calendar of conferences and meetings, we would like to reiterate that the Member States of the European Union are interested in finding a

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\* L'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine, le Monténégro, la Serbie et l'Albanie continuent à participer au processus de stabilisation et d'association.

sustainable, pragmatic solution regarding the persisting time management problem related to the second resumed session of the Fifth Committee. Over the last years, we have been constantly unable to conclude our deliberations in the officially allotted timeframe. By extending the deadline of the session, neither conference services nor interpretation are secured and an extra-burden is put on the highly-valued Fifth Committee Secretariat which has to service other intergovernmental meetings simultaneously.

During the substantive session of the Committee on Conferences in September this year, delegations had an open, fruitful and extensive discussion about this issue. There was a shared feeling amongst delegates that four weeks are not enough time for the second resumed session to reasonably handle the challenging and ever increasing workload of the Committee. We believe that a solution is long overdue. We therefore welcome that the draft resolution submitted by the CoC reflects the issues raised and believe that it will serve as a good basis for our discussions in the Fifth Committee.

Mister Chairman,

Let me reiterate that the Member States of the European Union are committed to working closely with all partners in a spirit of openness, transparency, constructive cooperation and compromise during the informal consultations with the aim of swiftly closing this agenda item.

I thank you, Mister Chairman.