



Declaration on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

by

**Mr Eric Chaboureau
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at the Sixth Committee

on the agenda items 84

**“Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of
diplomatic and consular missions and representatives”**

United Nations

New York

16 October 2018

— CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY —

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the report of the Secretary General (A/73/189) on the consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

Violent, including deadly, incidents and attacks involving diplomatic and consular personnel and premises continue to occur. As these violent incidents and attacks are a matter of great concern for us all, we would urge all States to ensure that the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives is respected.

We urge States to strictly observe, implement and enforce the provisions of international law governed by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963, which the EU Member States fully apply. Respect for these principles is essential. Close cooperation in security matters is needed, not only at the international level, but also nationally between the missions and the competent local authorities. The European Union and its Member States support efforts aimed at ensuring and strengthening the protection and safety of diplomatic and consular staff.

We strongly condemn attacks against diplomatic and consular missions, in particular those which occurred against German premises and equipment in Afghanistan and against the Austrian embassy in Libya. We reiterate also that any kind of violent act against diplomatic and consular missions or their staff can never be justified, wherever they occur. In this regard, we recall that the physical safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, which is a prerequisite for their smooth functioning, is in our common interest and must be secured. We call on all States concerned to bring perpetrators to justice.

Receiving States are also under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the diplomatic missions and consular premises under the two Vienna Conventions. In that context, particular attention must be paid to the threats posed by terrorists and other armed groups, as attested by events which occurred in Somalia and Afghanistan.

* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

The European Union and its Member States would like to recall that diplomatic and consular staffs are under a duty to comply with their respective obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic relations and Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, in particular their obligation to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State.

Mr. Chairman,

The numerous and significant breaches of international law relating to diplomatic and consular relations illustrated in the Secretary General's report show that our efforts in this domain should continue, if not intensify. Everyone is aware of the eminent contribution made by diplomatic relations to the establishment of trust among nations and concord among people. Any acceptance of lessened protection would amount to endangering those objectives.

We call again upon all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

I thank you.