



EUROPEAN UNION
Delegation of the European Commission

Statement by

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53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Mr./Ms. Chair,

It is an honor to address the 53rd Commission on the Status of women. During the session, the Presidency of the EU has reported on EU activities in the areas covered by the discussions and I would like to complement this information.

Gender equality is a fundamental value of the European Union and has been enshrined in its Treaties since its very beginning. This long standing commitment is visible through the comprehensive body of EU legislation guaranteeing equal treatment between women and men but also at the heart of many EU policies thanks to the principle of gender mainstreaming. This is most notably the case as regards the external policies of the European Union, including external relations and development and cooperation

policies.

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Mr./Ms. Chair,

The European Commission welcomes the fact that the priority theme of the 53rd session of the CSW is the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. Let me remind you that the second priority area of the European Commission's Roadmap for equality between women and men is "enhancing reconciliation of work, private and family life". It is a key policy in order to

European Commission and are now being discussed by the Council of the EU and the

In the context of an ongoing progress review, we are currently exploring with EU stakeholders how we can sustain and strengthen the EU's collective role in support of country responses to HIV/AIDS and translate policies into concrete country action and

We are determined to make substantive progress in time for 2010, when we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of resolution 1325. Further to the call of over forty women international leaders - who joined Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner in Brussels in March 2008 to discuss "Women: Stabilizing an Insecure World" - the UN Secretary-