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ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

STATEMENT BY ENNO DROFENIK

COUNSELLOR

PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Item 130: Joint Inspection Unit

FIFTH COMMITTEE

New York, 6 March 2006

EU Statement on Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

Mr. Chairman

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia*, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

At the outset we wish to thank the Office of the President of the General Assembly to present us with a note on procedures for the appointment of inspectors of the Joint Inspection Unit. This document corresponds to a request in resolution 59/267 where the Assembly mandated the President of the GA to review the appointment procedure for JIU inspectors with the aim to enhance the efficient application of article 3 paragraph 2 of the Statute of the JIU.

EU strongly supports the efforts to improve the selection process for inspectors. The process must become more simple, transparent, reliable and must ensure that the candidates meet the necessary professional requirements. The strengthening of the consultative role of the President of the General Assembly and the shortening of the overall process are important means to that end. The EU welcomes the proposals contained in note A/60/659.

Mr. Chairman,

We would also like to thank the Chairperson of the Joint Inspection Unit, Mrs. Deborah Wynes for having introduced the programme of work for 2006, contained in document A/C.5/60/CRP.1.

During our deliberations at the main session, several delegations emphasised the need to discuss the programme of work of the Unit in a more timely manner. We are, therefore, pleased to see that the JIU listened to the concerns of the member states and made the programme of work available to the Committee at an early stage.

We will reflect on the topics proposed and comment further in our informal consultations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

* Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.