



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

Miss Carmel Power

First Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

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Fifth Committee**

**Item 147: Administration and budgetary aspects of financing UN PKOs -
Support account for PKOs**

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- AS DELIVERED -

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Union on the issue of Support Account for Peacekeeping Operations.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Serbia*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank Mr Chandru Ramanathan, the Officer-in-Charge, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, for introducing the reports of the Secretary General on the support account for peacekeeping operations. I would also like to thank the Chair of the ACABQ, Mr Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for introducing his Committee's report.

Mr Chairman,

As we have reaffirmed in our recent statements on cross-cutting issues and at the opening of the current session, the Member States of the European Union continue to attach great importance to UN peacekeeping operations as a core task of the Organisation and actively support and participate in them.

With regard to the Support Account for Peacekeeping Operations, we note that although the Secretary General's proposal represents a small decrease compared to the appropriation for 2013/14, the number of posts requested increases, mostly as a result of proposed conversions from general temporary assistance. The proposed increase in total posts and positions under the Support Account comes at a time when in the same period, the numbers of both military and police personnel and civilian staff in peacekeeping decrease. We will therefore closely scrutinise the resources requested, both in relation to posts and non-post resources. In particular, bearing in mind that support functions should be scalable to the size and scope of peacekeeping operations and that there should be a relationship between the level of support account backstopping and the number, size and complexity of peacekeeping operations, we will be interested in hearing how

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

the Secretariat took account of this in their review of requirements for 2014/15 and how this is reflected in the budget proposal before us. The rationale used by the Secretariat for conversion of GTA positions to posts will also be of interest.

Mr Chairman,

The Member States of the European Union would like to reiterate the importance of keeping in mind the purpose of the support account as envisaged when it was first conceived and implemented. It should be properly structured, transparent and relevant in relation to the evolving mandates so that it can provide the core or basic capacity to support peacekeeping operations.

Mr Chairman,

In conclusion, we look forward to working closely with all partners in a constructive and open spirit to reach consensus on this issue.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.