



To
Catherine Ashton
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Dear Baroness Ashton,

We would like to use the occasion of the International Women's Day, which we are all celebrating today, to bring one very important aspect to your attention.

The UN Security Council's Resolution 1325 (2000) on Violence against Women in armed conflicts has been adopted in 2000 and is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Nonetheless, only 12 Member States have implemented national action plans.

The European Union also has to play an important role to support the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 and has made some steps in this direction over the last years - but falling far short of real implementation.

The EU ought to politically support the objectives set out in the Resolution, such as appointing more women as special representatives and incorporating a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations and encourage Member States to implement the Resolution through creating peer pressure.

But as we all know: without the right institutions and incentives in place, the impact will remain sporadic. Now you have the outstanding opportunity to create the new structures of the European External Action Service (EEAS). This represents an enormous opportunity for anchoring gender equality from the beginning via strong, high-level and well resourced gender architecture.

Unfortunately, the drafts describing structure, competencies and financial implications of the EEAS do not include any provisions in this direction.

We would therefore like to encourage you to include tangible suggestions respecting the requirements set out in UN Resolution 1325 in the final draft.

We expect your strong commitment to achieving gender equality in the European Union and worldwide and will therein fully support you. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Franziska Brantner
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