

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS
Johannes Hahn, Commissioner

In Belgrade, May 29th, 2015

**OBSERVATIONS OF WOMEN NGO'S REGARDING
BENCHMARKS AND SERBIA'S DRAFT ACTION PLAN ON CHAPTER 24**

Calling upon outcome IV of the Action plan of the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy called *Human rights in all EU external policies* in which action no. 14 *Ensure human rights underpin the external dimension of work in the area of 'freedom, security and justice' (FSJ)* it is stated under point (c) that EU should:

Ensure that human rights issues, including women's enjoyment of human rights, are taken into account in FSJ Sub-Committees with third countries.

Reminding that Screening report for Serbia on Chapter 24, dated May 15th, 2015, hasn't set up any benchmark regarding women's enjoyment of human rights with respect to justice, freedom and security except in the field of trafficking;

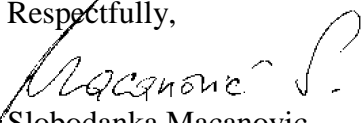
Having in mind that Serbia's third draft of the Action plan for Chapter 24 only covers trafficking, cyber and organized crime, annulling improvement in dealing with other crimes that represent 90% of all crimes in Serbia and forgetting to plan actions aimed at improvement of basic human security;

Having in mind that Serbia's third draft of the Action plan for Chapter 24 doesn't include any action directed to the improvement of the current justice, freedom and security for women in Serbia, especially with regard to ratified CoE Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence¹

Alarming that from the January 1st, 2015, 21 women had been murdered in Serbia by their partners or ex-partners or members of their family, which makes Serbia the country with the highest rate of femicide in Europe,

Autonomous Women's Center call upon the EU Commission and DG NEAR to revise the benchmarks set up for Chapter 24 in order to meet the the above mentioned action 14 (c) of the outcome IV of the Action plan of the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy.

Respectfully,


Slobodanka Macanovic
Autonomous Women's Center

¹ Official gazette of RS – International documents, no. 12/2013