Youth in focus at the 2016 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Vienna

VIENNA, 27 September 2016 – Representatives of the OSCE participating States, the OSCE Mediterranean Partner countries and international organizations will meet in Vienna, on 5 and 6 October 2016 to discuss ways to address challenges for youth north and south of the Mediterranean, thus enhancing opportunities and fostering security in the region.

On 5 October, Wednesday, 09:30, Hofburg Neuer Saal, the conference will be opened by Michael Linhart, Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs and Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General.

The opening will be followed by three thematic sessions featuring youth representatives and experts from both Europe and the Mediterranean addressing lessons learned in the fields of countering violent extremism, radicalization and terrorism; best practices in dealing with current migration trends; and practical proposals on enhancing opportunities for youth.

On 6 October, Thursday, 10:00, Hofburg Großer Redoutensaal, Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration, and Foreign Affairs Sebastian Kurz will open the high-level political segment of the conference. Ministers and other high-level speakers will discuss the future of Mediterranean co-operation with a focus on youth. Participants include:

- Nasser Judeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriate Affairs, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Paolo Gentiloni Silveri, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
- Martin Kobler, UN Secretary General’s Special Representative and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (TBC)
- Fayez Mustafa Al-Sarraj, President of the Presidency Council of the Council of Ministers of the Government of National Accord of the State of Libya (TBC)
- Nadia Murad Bassee, United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking (TBC)

At 12:30, Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Sebastian Kurz and the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier will close the conference.

All sessions on October 5 will be open to media during the key note addresses. During the ministerial segment on October 6 the whole session will allow the presence of media.

The OSCE has a decades-old Mediterranean Partnership with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The Partnership provides a platform for political dialogue and practical co-operation projects, including on youth.

The conference will take place at the Hofburg, Vienna. On 5 October please use the entrance from Heldenplatz and on 6 October entrance is from Josefsplatz.

Media representatives wishing to attend the conference are kindly requested to register by sending an email to press@osce.org by 3 October, Monday, 17:30. For more information please contact Mersiha Causevic Podzic at mersiha.causevic-podzic@osce.org, OSCE Communication and Media Relations Section, or Helene Spitzer at Helene.SPITZER@bmeia.gv.at, Press Office of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs.

Discussions can also be followed on Twitter at @OSCE or using the hashtag #OSCEMed.
The agenda and more information are available here.