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The EU played an active role in the work of the first session in Geneva on 23-27 May 2011 of the UN Human Rights Council's Open Ended Working Group on Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs), whose mandate is to consider the possibility of negotiating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies. For this first session, the EU considered it necessary to take stock of these various initiatives, highlight the existing regulatory framework and allow the sharing of expertise and best practice. The activities of PMSCs touch upon several branches of international law, *inter alia*, the law on the use of force, international human rights and humanitarian law, international criminal law and the law of state responsibility.

The EU's Guidelines on promoting compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) commit it to supporting compliance with International Humanitarian Law by third States. The EU is also active in the area of corporate social responsibility and has financed an independent research project on "Regulating privatisation of war: the role of the EU in assuring the compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights" whose analytical research on existing legal framework and recommendations is now available.

Within the area of CSDP, the Security Sector Reform-Support Concept explicitly refers to non-statutory security forces as part of the "security system" and hence is subject to the same principles of good governance, inter-alia, transparency, accountability, rule of law and democratic control.