



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 766 Vienna, 15 October 2014

#### EU Statement on the Vienna Document

---

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to thank the Chairmanship as well as the key-note speakers, for this useful opportunity to discuss the Vienna Document during a period when trust and confidence in the OSCE area are damaged by the illegal annexation of the Ukrainian region of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and by the security crisis in and around Ukraine.

We note with interest the Slovenian Study's conclusion on the Vienna Document having partially become a hostage of great power relations in other areas and the problematic situation in relation to the CFE Treaty, and we agree with the conclusion that participating States need to understand that having a stronger Vienna Document is in their long- and mid-term strategic interest.

We view the Vienna Document as one of the main components of the OSCE politico-military dimension. We would like to underline that *the raison d'être* of the Vienna Document is to build regional confidence and security by giving effect to commitments all OSCE participating States have made to refrain from the threat or use of force, including in relation to the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of States.

Against this background, we would all be well served by bearing in mind the reason the Vienna Document was conceived, and, in that spirit, consider what is further needed to prevent conflicts and de-escalate tensions, including by maximising restraint, holding constructive consultations with all relevant parties and by facilitating verifiable transparency relating to military activities of concern to any participating State.

We believe that in such circumstances fully respecting, both in letter and in spirit, and modernising the existing OSCE commitments in the politico-military area remains a task to be pursued in a priority manner. We should do so with the further aim of improving substantially the overall level of implementation of the Vienna Document and other

Confidence and Security-Building Measures taking stoke of the experience and lessons learnt during the Ukrainian crisis, in particular regarding the risk reduction mechanism.

The proven transparency record of the Vienna Document with its information exchange and notifications is one of the core elements of the document. The FSC should have high ambitions in this respect by striving to identify and agree upon concrete results that achieve tangible transparency benefits, in areas such as lowering the thresholds for notification, exploring ways to include selected non-combat units in the annual exchange of military information, increasing opportunities for verification activities while managing costs in connection with these activities, expanding the range of military activities subject to notification, modernising and updating the exchange of military information, strengthening our risk reduction mechanisms, as well as considering possibilities to enlarge the scope of CSBMs.

We will therefore actively contribute to enhancing military stability, predictability and transparency by structured and result-oriented negotiations to ensure the Vienna Document 2011 and its CSBMs are adjusted to the evolving security environment.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to once again thank the speakers for their valuable contribution to today's dialogue. We continue to support the indispensable work done by the Forum and wish the speakers every success in their future endeavours.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND\*\* and ALBANIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

---

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

\*\* Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.