

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE 2013 Annual Security Review Conference
Vienna, 19-20 June 2013**

**EU statement on Working Session I – Transnational
Threats and Challenges**

The EU and its Member States welcome the progress that has been made since the adoption of the Astana Commemorative Declaration, in particular the adoption by the Permanent Council of four major decisions on fighting transnational threats and their subsequent endorsement by Ministers at the Dublin Ministerial Council in December last year. These decisions have created a sound and comprehensive basis for the OSCE's work on fighting transnational threats in the coming years.

As the Ministers themselves put it in MC Decision 4/12, full implementation of these decisions is necessary to "translate political commitments agreed by the participating States into effective and sustainable programmatic action". We welcome the strong focus that the Ukrainian Chairmanship has put this year on the implementation of OSCE TNT decisions.

Since Astana, progress has also been accomplished on the structural side: MC Decision 9/11 paved the way for the swift creation of the new TNT Department within the OSCE Secretariat. Achieving better programmatic coherence is not an easy task. Despite the difficulties, we see value in preserving the identity of the existing units of the TNT Department.

We believe that in the area of combating transnational threats, like in other fields of the OSCE's work, coordination among executive structures, and with OSCE Field Missions, remains crucial, whilst bearing in mind and respecting their respective mandates. We also believe that cooperation with other relevant international and regional actors, as well as promoting stronger cooperation with OSCE Partners, remains highly desirable. We also emphasise that the fight against transnational threats and challenges should be done in a comprehensive

and cross-dimensional manner, fully respecting OSCE commitments and principles, including those in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me say a few words about what we see as the main areas of work of the OSCE in the field of combating transnational threats:

The first Cyber-security Strategy of the EU, published on 7 February 2013, specifically mentions the development of confidence building measures in cyber-security as a key priority action of international cyber policy and lists the OSCE as one of the main international partners of the EU. We welcome the good progress made on developing an initial set of confidence building measures in negotiations during the last session of the OSCE Informal Working Group, held on 22 and 23 May 2013.

In our future work aimed at finalising the first set of OSCE CBMs to reduce the risk of conflicts in this area, we need to bear in mind the multi-stakeholder approach and to ensure that state conduct in this field has to be in compliance with international law. At the OSCE, we should enable voluntary exchange of information among States, including on the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms online and offline. We also believe that there is good reason to use the OSCE platform of dialogue, including for capacity building in the field of cyber security.

The UN Group of Governmental Experts adopted its Report on 7 June this year. This report attaches considerable importance to the work of regional security organisations, including the OSCE, in developing CBMs. We consider that the GGE Report will be helpful in our upcoming discussions in the OSCE IWG, while also taking into account the regional specifics relevant in the OSCE, as well as the comprehensive and cross-dimensional approach to security of the Organisation.

There is good momentum to finalise the first OSCE set of confidence building measures, which can be developed further in the coming years, given that threats related to cyber-security are evolving. We look forward to the next meeting of the

Informal Working Group in July and reiterate our hope that an initial set of CBMs can after that be adopted speedily by the Permanent Council.

The strategic framework for police-related activities, adopted in PC Decision 1049, has clearly established the role of the OSCE regarding assistance to be provided to the participating States. Several thematic priorities have been identified, especially in the field of general police development and reform. We consider democratic policing one of the strengths of the OSCE and welcome further work in this area.

During the on-going implementation phase, we urge the OSCE to take advantage of its sound experience in organising activities aimed at upholding the rule of law while ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Indeed, in the current context, we believe that stimulating and facilitating dialogue and cooperation between the police, other government agencies, and civil society can serve as a useful catalyst for peace and stability in the OSCE region.

The comparative advantage of the OSCE's anti-terrorism profile lies in the Organisation's comprehensive approach to security, and in its framework for multi-stakeholder dialogue, including civil society, media and the private sector. As in other areas of TNT work, there is also a lot of expertise, not only in the TNT Department, but also in the OSCE field presences and Institutions, that should be fully harnessed.

We support the close coordination of the TNT Department with the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and welcome the continued cooperation between the Department and UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch on the basis of the OSCE-UNODC Joint Action Plan. In this regard, we encourage joint planning and organisation of new counter-terrorism activities in the OSCE area and in the improvement of counter-terrorism capacity building at national and regional level.

OSCE activities to eliminate conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and those to enhance cooperation and build capacity to prevent and combat terrorism should be given priority, as compared to organising OSCE-wide conferences. This would allow us to maximise the use of available resources.

The OSCE has developed particular expertise in the area of border management based on its well-regarded Border Security and Management Concept, agreed under MC Decision 2/05. We believe this Concept is still fully fit for purpose and that we should concentrate our efforts in this sector on deepening and widening its full and effective implementation. We value the cross-dimensional approach to border management as outlined in the Concept, which observes human rights and promotes respect and transparency, as well as helping to facilitate economic development through closer regional integration.

The OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe plays a key role in this regard and we would welcome its further development based on a comprehensive analysis of the impact and effectiveness of its training courses. We particularly value the opportunity it offers to facilitate regional cooperation including, most pertinently, with Afghanistan.

Mr Chairperson,

Achieving effective mandates and structures is not an end in itself. They serve to bolster and streamline the valuable contribution that the OSCE makes to the fight against transnational threats: translating international commitments and standards to our regional level, providing capacity-building, promoting fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in preventing and combating transnational threats, and utilising its unique and flexible Field Missions and Institutions together with the Secretariat.

In this vein, we look forward to carrying on our joint work to improve the OSCE's effectiveness in tackling transnational and emerging threats and challenges, including those stemming from Afghanistan.

The Acceding Country CROATIA*, the Candidate Countries TURKEY, the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of MOLDOVA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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