



## EUROPEAN UNION

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

#### **EU statement on making best use of the FSC dialogue on the crisis in and around Ukraine**

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The European Union and its Member States firmly believe that the FSC is a venue for dialogue and cooperation, facilitating the exchange of information, best practice and proposals among participating States, within the scope of its mandate and in order to strengthen confidence and transparency on politico-military issues of security. In this context, all participating States have the equal right to raise concerns on the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments, request clarifications in case of their violation and promote solutions in accordance with relevant OSCE and FSC documents and decisions. In this respect, participating States are expected to act on the basis of mutual respect and in a transparent and cooperative manner.

This is why we strongly advocate the strengthening of the role of the FSC with a view to an open and comprehensive dialogue on military aspects of security. In this respect, we share our views and positions openly and engage constructively in the discussion at the FSC plenary and working groups meetings without prejudice to positions of our partners.

We have followed closely the positions expressed by the Russian Federation on politico-military issues relating to the evolving crisis in and around Ukraine, even given their lengthy and all-encompassing character. We wish to note however that the systematic extension of Russian argumentation beyond the scope and mandate of the FSC does not facilitate dialogue, and in particular does not allow for proper analysis of the positions expressed by the Russian Federation itself; neither does it allow for adequate and careful verification of the detailed information provided as these statements are not published or shared with other delegations prior to or after FSC meetings.

The amount of time for our weekly exchange of views in the FSC is inevitably limited. Therefore, it is incumbent on us all to try to make the best use of the time available. In

this vein, it might be sensible for all concerned to try to limit the duration of their formal, oral interventions to a maximum of five minutes or so. Any necessary further detail could be circulated in writing and briefly referenced orally to ensure all in the FSC are aware.

We invite the Russian Federation to engage within the FSC in an open dialogue on issues pertaining to security in and around Ukraine in order to shed light on all military aspects of the crisis and assist in building a common understanding around the urgent security problems on the ground. This cannot but contribute to security, confidence and transparency in the region.

The candidate country MONTENEGRO\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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\* Montenegro continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.