



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°859 Vienna, 19 July 2017

EU Statement in response to closing remarks by Ambassador Ulyanov

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank Ambassador Ulyanov for his closing statement, and you, Mr. Vorobiev and your able team, for the successful work and leadership as FSC Chair in the past trimester. We appreciate the choice of topics you have put on the agenda of the security dialogues during your Chairmanship and congratulate you on the successful conduct of our meetings.

We particularly welcomed the discussions at the security dialogue on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition and the joint FSC/PC on the Structured Dialogue. The joint meeting provided a good opportunity to present and discuss the interim report on the Structured Dialogue before the informal Ministerial Meeting in Mauerbach. We also welcomed the breakout workshop organised by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and the related ASRC sessions. Finally, we welcomed the Sixth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct.

We remain strong supporters of efforts to fully implement, update and modernise the Vienna Document in light of new security challenges and technical developments in the military sphere. In this context, we commend you for putting the topic of the prevention of military incidents on the agenda. We believe that the OSCE has an important role to play in risk reduction and we once again draw the attention of this forum to the Polish proposal for a Vienna Document Plus decision on strengthening co-operation as regards hazardous incidents of a military nature.

We commend the initiative, originally promoted by Poland under Romania's FSC Chairmanship to increase military transparency by providing voluntary briefings at FSC ahead of military exercises. This initiative has gathered momentum during recent FSC meetings, with the US, Norway, Hungary, Slovenia, Lithuania, Sweden,

Germany and Belarus all providing such voluntary briefings at the FSC. Increasing transparency and predictability remains for us a key priority, including within the Structured Dialogue, and we therefore greatly welcome such informative briefings by participating States.

We look forward to working with the incoming Serbian Chairmanship after the summer recess and remain committed to contributing to further discussions, focusing on the existing politico-military toolbox, conventional arms control and CSBMs, notably modernisation of the Vienna Document – as well as on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, Code of Conduct and on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. We also remain committed to continuing deliberations in the framework of the IWG on the Structured Dialogue.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, 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.

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