



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE 67th Joint FSC/PC Vienna, 29 November 2017

EU Statement - Structured Dialogue

1. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Austrian Chairmanship in Office, as well as the Serbian FSC Chairmanship, for convening this Joint FSC/PC meeting on the Structured Dialogue. Since the last joint session a great deal of important work has been done, for which we commend Ambassador Pohl and his able team for their sterling efforts, including for the preparation of perception and background papers which have stimulated the discussions.
2. We appreciate the skill by which the Chairman of the Informal Working Group has steered a course through some challenging discussions, all the time maintaining a transparent, inclusive process that is owned and driven by participating States, and without a predetermined outcome. The discussions since the last Joint FSC-PC on the Challenges to the Rules-based European Security Order, on military contacts, communication and cooperation, and the workshop on Trends in Military Force Posture and Exercises, have been open, substantive and valuable.
3. As we have mentioned in our statement on the 5th of July, to which we refer, further deliberation should focus on Clusters One “Challenges to a rule-based European security order”, and Three, “Interstate tension of a politico-military nature”. To this end, we value the suggestion to try and identify and agree building blocks to enhance stability in the OSCE area, such as: improved risk-reduction mechanisms, fact-finding and transparency measures, better communication channels, including military ones, and enhanced military-to-military contacts, where appropriate.
4. We also look forward to further discussions on threat perceptions, including those resulting from conflicts, given their relevance. We continue to have serious concerns over Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine. It is essential to restore full respect for international law and fundamental OSCE principles.
5. Concerns remain regarding large-scale and snap military exercises and military deployments in the vicinity of international borders without adequate transparency, as well as hazardous incidents, and a selective approach to the implementation of the

OSCE's politico-military commitments. As part of developing the understanding of threat perceptions and security concerns, we support the continuation of the process to map relevant military trends, force postures and exercises.

6. We also emphasise the need to work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs, alongside our strong commitment to full implementation of the existing commitments in the politico-military area, and we remain strong supporters of Vienna Document modernization.
7. We will continue to engage in the Structured Dialogue as a means of addressing the current and future challenges and risks in the OSCE area, to foster a greater understanding on these issues that could serve as a common, solid basis for a way forward through an open, transparent, inclusive and honest exchange of views.
8. We thank the IWG Chair for the publication of the report on the work of the Structured Dialogue in 2017, which is submitted for discussion at the side event during the OSCE Ministerial Council in Vienna next week. We look forward to working with the future Chairmanship in Office, within the framework of the IWG and related activities, on these important discussions.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, 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.