



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 962
Vienna, 25 July 2013**

**EU statement in response to the Report on progress
made under the Helsinki +40 process**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Chairmanship for having launched the Helsinki+40 process in accordance with the Dublin MC Decision and for initiating a series of relevant discussions and preparing a number of insightful Food-for-Thought and Perception Papers. We welcome the report and the outline of the way forward for the second half of this year, including the important future discussions proposed.

Looking beyond this year, we reiterate our belief that we cannot simply talk of the adoption of a landmark document in 2015. We need to make progress on concrete issues along the way if we want to achieve a substantive document. We already have a unique acquis of commitments and a meaningful toolbox to address issues in all three dimensions. Ensuring the full implementation of our commitments and optimising the use of existing tools should be at the heart of the Helsinki+40 process. In this context, we stress the benefits of inputs from field missions, the autonomous institutions, the executive structures, the Parliamentary Assembly, our partners for co-operation and the OSCE's partner organisations as well as civil society, including NGOs, and the recently established OSCE academic network, which we welcome. We encourage the Chairmanship to explore ways to facilitate such contributions. A number of inputs from the past processes continue to be of relevance.

Having these goals in mind, we will continue to support the efforts of the current and incoming Chairmanships to guide the process towards 2015. This could include coordinators or relevant subgroups to move forward specific thematic issues and facilitate tangible results. However, we will need to be clear what role these are to play, what outcomes they are expected to deliver, and how they will work, not least to avoid cutting across the work of the existing committees and other fora.

We recently commemorated the launch of the Helsinki Process in 1973 which would eventually lead to the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in August 1975. We now have at our disposal roughly the same amount of time as our predecessors had 40 years ago, but we are not starting from scratch. This example, from a different time and era, should inspire us to summon the political will to fully implement OSCE commitments, to reconfirm them and to build upon the OSCE achievements across the three dimensions with a view to realising the security community.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member 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 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.