



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE 2011 Annual Security Review Conference Vienna, 30 June 2011

EU statement at the Annual Security Review Conference

The European Union would like to thank H.E. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Secretary General of NATO, for his presentation that constitutes an excellent point of departure for the work of this conference. The EU would also like to congratulate the Lithuanian CiO, for their dedicated and committed Chairmanship.

The EU fully supports the OSCE. We have been consistent and steadfast in our political and financial support. The role of the EU and its Member States in the Corfu process and their contribution to the Astana Summit are tangible evidence of this. In today's interdependent world, the OSCE's mission is as relevant as ever. Security is indivisible, threats and challenges are interlinked; they call for an answer which can be all the more effective, the more it is concerted and coordinated. These are principles underpinning also EU external action in synergy with the OSCE, enhanced by the Lisbon treaty and set out in the EU Security Strategy.

In Astana, the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States reconfirmed our common principles and commitments and agreed on a strategic

vision to guide our work. We should strive to make concrete and substantial progress towards the vision of a Security Community.

The strategic goal of our discussions in the past two years – to restore trust and confidence between States in the OSCE area, as a stable foundation for a Security Community – remains as relevant as ever. To achieve this, the debate must continue addressing pertinent security concerns in the region and aim for tangible progress. We hope that discussions at the ASRC will provide a valuable input to support the Lithuanian Chairmanship-in-Office to chart a concrete, ambitious and pragmatic course forward, for the Vilnius Ministerial.

Mr Chairperson,

The EU is committed to strengthening the security of the OSCE region. First and foremost, it is imperative to achieve tangible progress towards the resolution of the protracted conflicts in our region. On Nagorno-Karabakh, the EU supports the work of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, reiterates its support for all the principles, without exception, proposed by the presidents of the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the French Republic in their joint declarations in L'Aquila in 2009 and in Muskoka in 2010 and is ready to step up its engagement if so wanted. We also need renewed efforts from the parties to reach common understanding on the outstanding issues and working towards a comprehensive settlement. In Georgia, the EU continues to play a key role, including co-chairing with the UN and the OSCE the Geneva discussions. It is also the leading actor on the ground, with a large monitoring presence. The EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia and the OSCE are co-operating together in the field - in promoting confidence building measures between the parties, including an Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in the South Ossetian region of Georgia. The EU is strongly in favour of restoring a meaningful and cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia, fully respecting its sovereignty and

territorial integrity. Concerning the Transdniestrian conflict, we remain determined to contribute to seeking a political settlement based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and within the 5+2 format, the only framework to guarantee the transparency and legitimacy to a lasting solution. As active participants in the 5+2 talks, we are pushing for the unconditional resumption of formal negotiations in this format. Regrettably, the informal meeting of the 5 + 2, in Moscow on 21 June, could not agree on this.

One geographical area where the EU and the OSCE, as well as NATO have been consistently active, with significant presences on the ground, is the Western Balkans. The EU and OSCE complement each other, working towards increased stability and good neighbourly relations. The EU's largest civilian CSDP mission, the rule of law mission EULEX Kosovo, is working closely with the OSCE presence in the area of capacity building. The integration processes of the Western Balkan countries play a key role in consolidating democracy and bringing stability to the region, and the OSCE's contribution in helping to move forward on this path cannot be overestimated. "The road to Brussels goes through Vienna", as stated by an OSCE representative at the recent Western Balkans Forum.

The EU believes that the OSCE's capabilities to act effectively throughout the entire conflict cycle should be enhanced, in particular in early warning, post-conflict rehabilitation, mediation and early crisis response. We look forward to adopting a comprehensive decision on this topic in Vilnius. The decision should enhance the analytical, early-warning and operational capacity of the OSCE executive structures, in particular that of the Conflict Prevention Centre, develop the OSCE mediation and crisis management capabilities and consolidate the OSCE role in post conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation, using also the potential of the environmental and economic dimension to promote confidence. The OSCE is one of the key partners of the EU in the area of conflict prevention

and resolution and we will continue to work closely together in this area. We should look at ways to strengthen OSCE capacities in crisis management, particularly when and where there is no OSCE field operation in place. These steps should result in a more long-term approach to conflict resolution efforts.

The Astana Summit's call for achieving greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats in and outside our region remains another priority for the EU in 2011. The EU aims at adjusting and further developing the strategic mandates on TNT-related programmes of the OSCE, in particular through the adoption of a strategic framework for police-related activities, while gradually strengthening co-ordination and programmatic coherence in this area, including by establishing within the Secretariat a co-ordinating function.

This objective is ambitious, but relevant. We have submitted a concrete road-map for a "step-by-step" approach to strengthen programmatic co-ordination and coherence through to the end of next year. Furthermore, EU delegations have taken an active role in facilitating the work on an OSCE strategic framework for policing and on consolidating OSCE counter-terrorism mandates.

We must capitalise on the OSCE's particular expertise and capacity in border security and management, and policing, which address many transnational threats and have specific relevance for certain regions of the OSCE. Preventing and combating terrorism remains an area of continued importance for the OSCE. At the same time, we should explore the OSCE role as regards cyber security.

Having the entire and mutually reinforcing network of treaties, commitments, decisions, norms and measures of arms control and confidence-and-security-building intact and viable is a common interest shared by all OSCE participating States. As our Heads of State or Government stated in Astana: "Conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency, and

should be revitalised, updated and modernised.” Finding a solution in order to overcome the impasse of the CFE regime, with its legally binding character, arms limitations, verification and transparency, remains crucial for European Security.

We are committed to a substantial updating of the Vienna Document '99, in order to adapt the document to the new political and military realities of the 21st century. In this regard, the EU considers that the adoption of a decision for the lowering of thresholds for prior notification of certain military activities, which is co-sponsored or supported by all EU Member States, could give a strong impetus to the negotiations. The EU believes that the commitment shown by partners in the updating process is an important element in our common efforts to restore confidence and trust among all OSCE participating States.

Mr Chairperson,

A stable, prosperous and democratic neighbourhood is a strategic priority for the EU. We have been engaging to this effect since 2004 with the European Neighbourhood Policy, which has just been reviewed to bring even better coherence to our efforts, taking into consideration the important changes brought about by the Lisbon Treaty.

This review is enabling us to tackle new situations and challenges. We are seeing historic transformations taking place south of our borders. The EU is fully engaged to make sure that the transition processes underway will lay the ground for a future of democracy and shared prosperity. The EU has extended an offer of a true partnership to this effect.

The EU believes that a co-ordinated response from the international community, notably from international organisations, is key. Therefore, we welcome OSCE intention to step up its engagement with its Mediterranean and Asian partners –

while underscoring the need for complementarity, added value, and avoiding duplications.

One of the purposes of this meeting is to promote the exchange of information and co-operation with relevant international and regional organisations and institutions. The basis for this joint work is the Platform for Cooperative Security, which constitutes an integral part of the Charter for European Security. The European Union is convinced of the need to foster co-operation and co-ordination with organisations and institutions willing to adhere to the principles of the OSCE in order to accomplish complementarity of the work of all actors active in the OSCE area.

The EU and its Member States will participate actively and in a constructive spirit in the work of this Conference.

The candidate countries CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

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

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