



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 756 Vienna, 4 June 2014

EU Statement on "New Spirit of RACVIAC and Regional Cooperation"

The European Union (EU) and its Member States wish to welcome Ambassador Branimir Mandić, the Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, and thank him for his insightful presentation into fostering cooperative security in the South East European region.

The impressive range of work and activities of RACVIAC and its strategic objectives are fully compatible and mutually reinforcing with similar activities carried out by the OSCE in the framework of its politico-military dimension. RACVIAC along with other relevant organisations constitutes working example of the added value that sub-regional arrangements can bring to the security in the broader Euro-Atlantic area.

From this point of view, we believe there is much to be gained from discussing the benefits and applicability of bilateral and sub-regional measures that address the particular needs of groups of participating States.

We note that the RACVIAC strategy includes the need for cooperation with a range of relevant international organisations and institutions and welcome the results of these impressive outreach efforts. As such we commend RACVIAC for its security related activities in the fields of, *inter alia*, CSBMs and Arms Control, preventing the spread of illicit SALW, non-proliferation of WMD, the

Democratic Control of Armed Forces, Security Sector Reform and UNSCR 1325.

In particular, we are grateful to RACVIAC for promoting the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security at regional level. In particular, we welcome the Centre's intention to host a commemoration event on the Code of Conduct's 20th anniversary in late September / October this year and look forward to the first ever peer-to-peer discussion on the Code's implementation to be held in RACVIAC among the countries of South East Europe.

During the last years the EU supported and has been actively involved in a series of RACVIAC events aimed at fostering a common perception of the EU CFSP and CSDP through sharing their values and developing a common security culture. It is our clear understanding that such events organised by RACVIAC are contributing not only to the politico-military cooperation in the region but also to the reaffirmation of its European perspective.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND** and SERBIA, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

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

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