



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°872 Vienna, 20 December 2017

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#### EU Statement on de-mining and the Ottawa Convention

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1. Madame Chairperson the European Union and its Member States are major actors in demining activity around the world and are strong supporters of the target to achieve an anti-personnel mine-free world, without any new victims, by 2025. Between 2012 and 2016 the European Commission committed EUR300 million worldwide to mine action, which includes support to several OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation. More specifically the EU contributed EUR985,000 to the demining of transportation infrastructure in Ukraine, with the OSCE as the Implementing Agency. We believe demining has an enormously positive impact on the protection of civilians, reduction in human suffering, development and stabilisation.
2. Despite the progress made in ridding the world of over 50 million stockpiled mines, there remains much more to be done. We condemn the use of anti-personnel mines by any actor, whether State or non-State actor. Hence we call upon all pS to refrain from the manufacture, trade and use of anti-personnel mines. Furthermore, we urge pS, which have not yet done so, to consider joining the Ottawa Convention, which is undisputedly a global success story.
3. Within the Decision on SALW and SCA adopted during the Vienna Ministerial Council two weeks ago, we see a great deal of potential in the FSC's work to help tackle the challenges posed by mines and explosive remnants of war. Through project work the OSCE can continue to assist participating States and Partners for Cooperation in dealing with these challenges.
4. Madame Chairperson, today's meeting coincides with the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, also taking place in Vienna. We commend the key roles played by Canada and Austria prior to and since the entry into force of the Convention and wish Austria every success in the final stages of their

Presidency. We note Afghanistan's nomination to assume the role of Presidency in 2018 and look forward to making further progress in this vital work during their tenure.

5. Finally we would wish to recall the plight of the victims of mines and the necessity to systematically address their needs, and we urge participating States to intensify efforts to clear mines, destroy stockpiles, and assist mine-victims in order to end the era of anti-personnel mines, thereby alleviating human suffering and contributing to stability and security.

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 country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ANDORRA 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.