



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Annual Security Review Conference Vienna, 28 June 2017

Special Session: Special Meeting of the Structured Dialogue EU Statement

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Austrian Chairmanship for organising a special meeting of the Structured Dialogue, a process we have all signed up to at the Ministerial Council in Hamburg and we thank the keynote speaker Mr Lukasz Kulesa for his valuable input.

We highly appreciate your efforts as the Chair of the Informal Working Group, Ambassador Eberhard Pohl. We fully concur with your approach to ensure a transparent, inclusive process owned and driven by participating States, and without a predetermined outcome. We are grateful for your able leadership to this end over the last few months.

We believe that the topics for discussion in the IWG framework were well chosen. As the meetings have shown, all three topics, namely threat perceptions, military doctrines and military force postures are interconnected. Furthermore, the informal setting of the meetings outside our usual formats, as well as the participation of capital representatives and the thorough preparation of the meetings, including academic input, encouraged an open and meaningful dialogue and provided an opportunity for a deeper exchange of views. Discussions have been given a positive kick-off. Useful and in-depth discussions need to continue with a focus on most pertinent areas identified by participating States.

As pointed out by the Chair, the meetings revealed both convergences and divergences among pS which will require further exploration. Moreover, our deliberations also revealed that we face broadly similar challenges that are multi-faceted and complex and cannot be tackled by one country alone. We acknowledge that the degree of urgency to respond to these challenges varies, depending on geography and on political and foreign policy affiliation of pS. These challenges are immense and we agree with the Chair that many of them go beyond the Structured Dialogue as mandated by the Ministerial Council. We therefore appreciate the “clustering” provided at the first meeting on threat perceptions, and would favour focusing on cluster one – “Challenges to a rules-based European security

order” – and three – “Interstate tension of politico-military nature” – in our further deliberations. We also value the proposal made by some participating States for an in-depth mapping of relevant military trends, postures and exercises. We look forward to discussions at the FSC/PC on 5 July as well as the round table discussion at the informal meeting of OSCE Ministers in Mauerbach.

Mr. Chairman, we concur with many views voiced during the IWG meetings so far: We share serious concerns over Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine. We are also worried about large scale and snap military exercises, hazardous and dangerous military incidents, military deployments in the vicinity of international borders, as well as a selective approach to the implementation of OSCE’s politico-military commitments. We note that the IWG Structured Dialogue could become a useful platform for in-depth exchanges on these issues and we should continue in this endeavour while focusing on risk reduction, and increasing transparency and predictability. We look forward to further discussions on threat perceptions raised by the participating States, including those resulting from conflicts. We remain strong supporters of the Vienna Document modernisation and will further promote full implementation and a substantial update of this key OSCE politico-military agreement to enhance strategic stability, ensure military predictability and rebuild confidence. We therefore highly value the efforts of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship to keep the Vienna Document and CSBMs high on our agenda.

This dialogue takes place in the context of a loss of trust and confidence in the OSCE area. We therefore value this dialogue in order to foster a greater understanding on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area. It is essential to restore full respect for international law and fundamental OSCE principles.

Finally, we would like to encourage you, Ambassador Pohl, to continue in your important task and we assure you of our full support.

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, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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