



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 776

Vienna, 20 January 2015

EU Statement on the Assumption of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation by Mongolia

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to welcome H.E. Lundeg Purevsuren, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, and thank him for having presented the FSC Chairmanship's programme and objectives for the first trimester of 2015.

We would also like to seize this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the outgoing Chairmanship, Monaco, for all its efforts to steer the FSC work in a highly professional and efficient manner throughout its term, particularly during Basel MC preparations and negotiations. We wish Montenegro every success as a new member of the FSC Troika and thank Moldova, which is leaving the Troika, for their work and commitment over the past year.

We share the opinion that the ongoing crisis in and around Ukraine has strongly marked the FSC activities in 2014 while it still remains a challenge to be addressed in the Forum under your Chairmanship. We see an urgent need, in such a context, of ensuring the full implementation and strengthening of the whole range of OSCE politico-military commitments, with the overall objective of enhancing the Organisation's conflict prevention and crisis management capabilities, as well as the implementation of the existing CSBMs.

In this respect, we welcome the adoption of MC decision 10/14 on SALW and SCA and believe it provides a good basis for boosting relevant norms and activities through improved implementation and increased coherence and complementarity with commitments related to the UN framework, *inter alia*, the outcome document of

the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States, the Arms Trade Treaty, UNSC Resolution 2117 on SALW, as well as UNSC Resolutions 2106 and 2122 on women, peace and security.

We therefore reiterate the importance of the review and, where appropriate, update of OSCE SALW and conventional arms commitments in a regular way, including through dedicated implementation assessment meetings such as the one held in September 2014.

The European Union recalls that the entry into force on 24 December 2014 of the Arms Trade Treaty, adopted in April 2013 by the UN General Assembly, is a landmark in the international security agenda. The Treaty now needs to gain universality and full implementation. We see an important role for the OSCE in this regard on the basis of the provisions of MC decision 10/14.

The failure to adopt a FSC framework decision in Basel, for a third consecutive year, was one more missed opportunity to underscore the need to preserve, update and modernise the OSCE politico-military toolbox, in particular the Vienna Document, in line with enduring commitments undertaken by all participating States in Astana and Vilnius. Against this background, we urge all participating States to engage in constructive discussions aimed at enhancing the Vienna Document's capacity to foster military transparency, predictability and stability, including in crisis situations.

That is why we see merit in starting structured discussions on improving relevant provisions of the Vienna Document, in particular its risk reduction mechanism, in the light of lessons learned during the crisis in and around Ukraine.

With regard to other important FSC issues, we are firmly convinced that the OSCE role and capacities devoted to the implementation, at the regional level, of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1540 need to be sustained and strengthened. It will be also important to further promote the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and its full implementation.

We welcome the balanced agenda for Security Dialogues scheduled by the Mongolian FSC Chairmanship and look forward to the Joint FSC/PC meeting devoted

to the activities of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

We thank you once again, Minister Purevsuren, and wish you and your team every success in your professional endeavours.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND** and ALBANIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA 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.

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