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Corfu Process – Joint Meeting of the FSC-PC Vienna 15 September 2009

EU Statement in the Joint FSC/PC on 15 September 2009

The 2009 Annual Security Review Conference offered an important opportunity to evaluate the security environment in the OSCE area and to assess the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the politico-military dimension. Let me here, on behalf of the European Union, touch upon some elements from the conference of particular relevance for the ongoing Corfu discussions on European security. We welcome this opportunity to revisit these issues and look forward to hearing the views of other delegations.

Let me reiterate that the EU position on the main principles which should guide these discussions was outlined at the FSC-PC meeting on 18 February as well as in our statement on 23 June. This position remains the basis for our work.

Within the OSCE, we have collectively created a unique network of treaties, commitments, decisions, norms and measures on conventional disarmament and arms control, Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs), counter-terrorism efforts, border management and police related activities. This network was created to promote security and stability in Europe by increasing trust and transparency among participating States. It constitutes a comprehensive and indispensable acquis for European security, which has served us well and remains relevant. Our priority should be its full and unconditional implementation. At the same time, it can be further improved and

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strengthened in order to address the threats and challenges of the 21st century and the EU is willing to explore ways to further strengthen this irreplaceable *acquis*.

Turning to conflict management in general and the protracted conflicts in particular, the OSCE's early warning, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post conflict assistance tools remain crucial. However, recent events have demonstrated that a lack of political will to fully apply the existing tools limits their effectiveness. Therefore, a vital aim of the dialogue on European security should be to find ways to make better use of these valuable tools.

The EU would like to once again underscore the importance of conventional arms control and the CFE Treaty in particular. The CFE regime remains a cornerstone of European security and should be preserved in the future. The EU expresses its hope for a resolution of the impasse around the CFE Treaty and calls upon all parties involved to intensify their efforts towards this end.

The EU considers CSBMs, particularly the Vienna Document 1999, the documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, as a basic precondition for strengthening of mutual trust among participating States. The EU calls on all participating States to fully implement these CSBMs and to support the improvement of implementation of the OSCE *acquis*. The EU welcomes progress achieved in this field, in particular the technical update of the Questionnaire to the Code of Conduct.

Combating the destabilising accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and conventional ammunition is an important area of work. The upcoming SALW Review Meeting should be used to seek to further improve the OSCE's work in this field. The meeting will be an excellent opportunity to identify existing and potential shortcomings in the SALW Document from 2000 and its supplementary decisions.

Further support for the implementation of UNSCRs 1540 and 1810 remains an important topic. The EU stands ready to discuss any proposal aimed at enhancing the OSCE's role in the field of non-proliferation.

The OSCE has become an important player in international counter-terrorism efforts. The EU welcomes efforts aimed at implementing the existing OSCE counter-terrorism commitments. We strongly reaffirm the importance of respecting human rights, the rule of law, the freedom of the media and other fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

The EU is committed to supporting the development of modern border management in the OSCE area. Effective border management is crucial not least for Central Asia, where it can contribute to stabilising the long term security situation for the whole region. The EU is also committed to further enhancing the OSCE's police-related activities.

In addition, it is essential to address new threats to security. In this context, the EU welcomed the first OSCE workshop on enhancing cyber security in March this year and looks forward to discussing possible follow-up steps.

Finally, let me restate that the EU attaches great importance to the OSCE field operations. They are crucial players in the area of security and we highly appreciate their valuable contribution to the promotion of the OSCE commitments.

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

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