



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°822 Vienna, 8 June 2016**

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#### **EU Statement on Security Architecture in Central and Eastern Europe including the role of the OSCE**

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The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome Mr. Dan Neculaescu, Director General for Strategic Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, and Mr. György Rábai, Head of Defence Policy Department, Ministry of Defence of Hungary, to the Forum for Security Co-operation, and thank them for their interesting presentations. We commend the Polish FSC Chairmanship for putting the topic on the FSC agenda.

We appreciate the opportunity to receive information on the security situation and threat perception from a regional point of view. We believe that such exchanges in this Forum are a useful opportunity for dialogue that might contribute to better mutual understanding.

Today's discussion reminds us of the important role of the OSCE in ensuring security and stability in Europe. It is a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation, which over the years has led to a number of key commitments, including fundamental politico-military agreements. Their full implementation by all participating States is crucial for increasing military security and stability. At the same time, given the evolving security environment and technical developments in the military sphere, genuine dialogue and action on updating and modernising the existing politico-military commitments is more than ever needed.

Key challenges to peace and stability continue to underscore the need also for the EU to adapt and improve its capacities as a security provider. The European Union and its Member States are in the process of strategic reflection, led by the High Representative, aimed at developing a broad EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy to guide the EU's global actions in future. We are trying to bring

together a broad set of instruments at our disposal to act comprehensively and contribute to our shared objectives of conflict resolution, peace and stability on our continent. Many of the current security challenges originate from instability in the EU's immediate neighbourhood and changing forms of threats. Given their complexity and multifaceted nature, cooperation with key partners, such as the OSCE, the United Nations and NATO, is essential. In this context, we recall the Council conclusions of 19 April 2016 on countering hybrid threats stressing the need for closer dialogue, cooperation and coordination with NATO, respecting the principles of inclusiveness and autonomy of decision-making of each organisation, as well as with other partner organizations.

The European Union welcomes all efforts to strengthen regional cooperation such as in the Black Sea area. Unfortunately, recent events in and around Ukraine have impacted on the EU's policies and programmes in the Black Sea region. Due to the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula by Russia, which is not recognized by the EU and the international community, EU-funded projects in Crimea have been suspended.

Finally, we thank once again the speakers as well as the FSC Chairmanship for providing us with the opportunity to exchange views on this interesting topic.

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 NORWAY, 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.