



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation No 795 Vienna, 9 September 2015

EU Statement in response to H.E. Mr. Bård Glad Pedersen, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome H.E. Mr. Bård Glad Pedersen, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, and thank him for outlining the FSC Chairmanship's programme as well as his country's views on the current security situation in the OSCE area.

We would also like to reiterate our sincere gratitude to the outgoing Montenegrin FSC Chairmanship for guiding our work successfully during its term.

Norway assumes the FSC Chairmanship at a critical point in time while we continue to be confronted with the most serious challenge to European security in decades. The Russian Federation's illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol and its destabilising actions in eastern Ukraine have seriously violated international law and the basic OSCE principles and commitments. We believe that the full implementation of the Minsk agreements by all parties, based on OSCE's principles and commitments and full respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, is the only acceptable and sustainable political solution of the crisis in and around Ukraine.

The crises in and around Ukraine demonstrates the clear need for the OSCE participating States to implement fully and in good faith existing politico-military commitments as well as update and modernise the Conventional Arms Control and Confidence and Security Building regimes in Europe, in particular the 2011 Vienna Document. We recall the proposals that have been put forward in this regard, including the Greek proposal on reinvigorating the dialogue on the Vienna Document Chapter III. We reiterate our longstanding position in favour of updating the OSCE politico-military toolbox in line with the evolving security environment and, where appropriate, the latest UN developments. We will also continue to take stock of the crisis in and around Ukraine and its impact on the implementation of OSCE politico-military commitments, in particular relating to the Vienna Document.

Illicit arms trafficking fuels conflicts and instability, supports criminal activities and results in a terrible human toll. The Arms Trade Treaty, which entered into force in December 2014, can

curb illicit arms trafficking with the robust controls that it mandates over arms transfers. The EU and its Member States will actively contribute to the efforts towards a universal and effective implementation of the Treaty. In this context we welcome your intention to discuss the Arms Trade Treaty and its possible implications for the OSCE work, in particular following the First Conference of State Parties that took place in August 2015 in Mexico.

We are convinced that the OSCE's role and capacities devoted to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and UNSC Resolution 1540 on Non-Proliferation should be further enhanced on a sustainable basis. UNSCR 1325 with its cross dimensional nature has an important role to play in all dimensions of the OSCE work – especially in the politico-military dimension – and needs to be implemented in a holistic and comprehensive manner. We therefore welcome the planned Joint FSC-PC meeting on UNSCR 1325. Furthermore, we wish to reiterate our support to the development of an OSCE-Wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and call for developing and renewing national action plans. We welcome the recent FSC decision on the OSCE role in the implementation of resolution 1540 and support the ongoing activities and efforts of the OSCE executive structures to assist those participating States which so request to implement resolution 1540.

The OSCE Code of Conduct remains of great importance and deserves our full support. Full implementation is essential, including by ensuring democratic political control of armed and security forces, the protection of rights of armed forces' personnel and the respect of international humanitarian law. Where necessary, implementation should be further strengthened and kept in line with today's security needs.

Finally, we look forward to our security dialogue on military doctrines which will give us a foretaste on the High Level Seminar to be held early next year to inform and discuss doctrinal changes, technological changes and their impacts on defence structures and armed forces.

Excellency,

We would like to thank you once again for presenting a balanced and comprehensive agenda and wish your country every success in conducting the FSC Chairmanship, including with a view to the preparations of the Belgrade Ministerial Council.

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 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.

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