

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 623
Vienna, 6 October 2010****EU statement in response to Mr. John Ging on “Confidence and security building – a view from the field”**

Mr Chairperson

The European Union warmly welcomes Mr. John Ging from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and thanks him for his interesting presentation.

The EU is grateful for his valuable insights on confidence and security building, based on extensive experience from the field. Having worked on all phases of the conflict cycle in different continents, Mr. Ging is very well placed to inform us on how international and regional organizations can make a significant contribution in addressing conflict situations, by understanding the root causes of each conflict, applying tailor-made confidence-building measures, alleviating the plight of the population in conflict areas, and promoting conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and peace-building.

The EU shares the view that every conflict is different and therefore every solution must contain unique elements. We also agree with Mr. Ging’s very eloquent assessment that all conflicts have multi-dimensional root causes and, therefore, solutions, and that the human factor lies at the very heart of the whole conflict cycle, from beginning to end. The EU believes that security begins with the inherent right of

every individual to dignity. Mr. Ging's presentation today, coming from the field, reconfirms the relationship between conflict and human dignity.

The OSCE has developed, over the past decades, a unique web in the area of Arms Control and Confidence and Security Building Measures which have provided unprecedented military transparency, predictability and cooperation among its participating States. The EU believes that these CSBMs and their implementation by all and in good faith are not only indispensable for maintaining confidence and trust among the participating States but also crucial instruments in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation. Simultaneously, the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security provides the Organization with a valuable toolbox for preventing crisis from erupting. Indeed, the EU shares Mr. Ging's view that, at the core of confidence and security building rests an attempt to defuse, prevent and resolve conflict.

Over the past year, in the framework of the Corfu Process, the EU has been pivotal in promoting the strengthening of the politico-military toolbox of the OSCE towards more military transparency and predictability as well as towards enhancing the Organization's capabilities in addressing the entire conflict cycle.

The upcoming OSCE Summit in Astana provides a unique opportunity to adopt an ambitious agenda for shaping a politico-military toolbox corresponding to the needs of the 21st Century security landscape. In shaping this agenda, the EU believes that we have to draw lessons from the experiences of the OSCE, but also from the extensive experience of other organizations in the conflict cycle.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and

SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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

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