

## Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**Vienna 14 June 2010**

### **EU Opening Statement at the ASRC**

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The European Union would like to thank Mr Konstantin Zhigalov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan for his very relevant presentation, that constitutes an excellent point of departure for the work ahead.

The 2010 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) takes place at an important time for security in Europe at large and for the OSCE in particular. We hope that the extended duration of the Conference will allow for deeper, more concrete and more substantial discussions. We also have to look into the ASRC in the context of the interim report to be discussed by our Ministers on July 16th and 17th in Almaty.

Our work will draw from and reinforce the progress made in the Corfu Process on the key issues of wider European security. Our strategic goal is to restore trust and confidence between states in the OSCE area, making it more secure. To achieve this, the debate must address security in the region writ large – including but going beyond the OSCE as an organisation – and aim for real, tangible progress in all aspects of our security. We hope that discussions at the ASRC will provide a valuable input to support the Kazakh

Chairmanship-in-Office to chart an ambitious and concrete course forward, including in view of the informal Ministerial meeting and a possible Summit.

The EU acknowledges that the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, its membership and geographical scope, enable the organisation to contribute successfully to international efforts on addressing Transnational Threats and Challenges.

Due to the evolving nature of Transnational Threats (TNT), however, the EU welcomes discussions on renewing strategic guidelines and on how to further enhance OSCE activities in this field. The organisation needs to more clearly define and develop its profile on TNT and fully exploit the best practice tools it has to offer. It needs to improve co-operation, co-ordination and planning both internally among OSCE units, institutions and field missions including cross-dimensional interaction, and externally with other relevant international organisations and stakeholders. In this vein, we should review and adapt, where necessary, the OSCE's underlying framework documents and the overarching Maastricht Strategy 2003 .

We must capitalize on the OSCE's particular expertise and capacity in Border security and management, and Policing, which address many transnational threats and have specific relevance for certain regions of the OSCE. Preventing and combating terrorism remains an area of continued added value of the OSCE in further promoting the UN legislative framework and in other areas. At the same time, we should explore the OSCE role relating to Cyber security and Non-Proliferation.

The EU fully supports enhancing the OSCE's role in Early Warning, Conflict Prevention and Resolution, Crisis Management and Post Conflict Rehabilitation. We believe that the OSCE needs to further develop its capacities as a priority, including in relation to existing protracted conflicts. We need a strategic vision, a comprehensive approach and closer coordination, between the EU and the OSCE in this field.

A number of EU member States have made specific proposals in this area in the context of the Corfu Process. The EU stands ready to consider reviewing existing OSCE mechanisms and procedures in order to reconfirm their relevance, update if necessary and to explore new ones. The Secretary General and the Chairmanship in Office should be empowered so as to increase the effectiveness of OSCE's capacities for early warning and conflict prevention. That should result in a more long-term approach to conflict resolution efforts, including by successive chairmanships. Moreover, the EU stresses the need to strengthen the analytical and operational capacity of the executive structures of the OSCE, particularly of the CPC. Suggestions to increase the existing tool box dealing with conflict prevention and crisis management should be considered.

It has been said many times that our discussions in the framework of the Corfu Process do not take place in a vacuum. We believe that our work must yield concrete results on key security issues, and in particular we consider that progress in the resolution of protracted conflicts in the OSCE area is fundamental.

The EU is interested in exploring further ways of cooperation in implementing the Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, especially resolution 1325 and increasing women's participation in peace processes and security policy.

The EU believes that a Europe without conventional arms control is not an option. The concept of comprehensive, indivisible and cooperative security is inextricably linked to arms control and Confidence and Security Building Measures and, therefore, one of the main tasks of the OSCE since its inception.

The principles in this field are sufficiently covered in several texts, including the Code of Conduct on Politico – Military Aspects of Security. During the ASRC, the EU is looking forward to a discussion on the OSCE norms and principles related to politico-military security as outlined in MC Decision 16/09 .

Having the entire and mutually reinforcing network of treaties, commitments, decisions, norms and measures of arms control and confidence-and-security-building, in particular the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), the Treaty on Open Skies (OS) and the Vienna Document 1999 (VD 99) intact and viable is a common interest shared by all OSCE participating States. Finding a solution in order to overcome the impasse of the CFE regime with its legally binding character, arms limitations, verification and transparency remains crucial for European Security.

We welcome the mobility over the Vienna Document 1999 recorded in FSC Decision 1/10 on Establishing a Procedure for Incorporating Relevant FSC Decisions and are confident that this will be the basis

for substantial progress to be attained in a timely fashion. We look forward to working constructively on strengthening the Vienna Document as agreed at the Athens Ministerial Council.

Issues pertaining to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Non Proliferation, especially concerning the implementation of UNSCR 1540, are also part of the existing framework, which needs to be further strengthened. We welcome the FSC Decision 2/10 on an OSCE Plan of Action on SALW that in its implementation will contribute to the fight against the threats posed by illicit small arms.

Since receiving a mandate to intensify its engagement with Afghanistan at the Madrid Ministerial Council in 2007, the OSCE has developed and taken forward a valuable programme in the areas of border management, law-enforcement and counter-narcotics training. We attach importance to developing further OSCE engagement with this country, in order to make a meaningful contribution to stability and security in the region. The EU has set priorities for implementation of the EU Plan of Action and is intensively engaged in the reconstruction of Afghan police forces.

In this context, the food-for-thought paper released by the United States on possible opportunities for OSCE contributions to regional security through activities related to stability and security in Afghanistan provides a useful stimulus for further discussions. We are ready to explore options for increased assistance in the areas of border security, customs training and counter-narcotics in co-ordination with the UN and other relevant regional and international

organizations. OSCE activities with Afghanistan in the three dimensions must provide added value and avoid duplications.

Last, but not least, the review of OSCE Police-related activities will be an important contribution to the ASRC. The EU welcomes the in-depth and comprehensive overview of police-related OSCE activities and the recommendations contained in the Secretary General's report. The Report constitutes a valuable basis and a point of departure for necessary discussions on an OSCE profile and value-added in this area.

The Report's findings will need to be further substantiated and translated into operational proposals and into a strategic perspective. The Corfu process and its review of OSCE's contribution to countering Transnational Threats provides a suitable occasion to mutually strengthen police-related work with activities of, in particular, the Action against Terrorism Unit, the Borders Unit and the OSCE Field operations .

One of the purposes of this meeting is to promote the exchange of information and cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and institutions. The basis for this joint work is the Platform for Co-operative Security, which constitutes an integral part of the Charter for European Security. The European Union is convinced of the need to foster cooperation and coordination with organizations and institutions willing to adhere to the principles of the OSCE in order to accomplish complementarity of the work of all actors that are active in the OSCE area.

The EU will participate actively and in a constructive spirit in the work of this Conference. The EU remains committed to the concept

of comprehensive, cooperative, indivisible and multidimensional security, which is based on a wide-ranging set of agreed principles and 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, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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