



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°935 Vienna, 11 December 2019

EU Statement on the outcome of the MC in Bratislava

Mr. Chairperson, the European Union and its Member States would like to extend our appreciation to the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship and the Czech FSC Chair for their commitment, tireless efforts and able handling of our meetings last week. This allowed us to have positive outcomes in Bratislava in the politico-military dimension. Our special gratitude goes to our dear colleague David Řezníček from the Czech FSC Team who navigated us skilfully through some challenging negotiations.

Mr. Chairperson, we welcome adoption of both the Commemorative Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, as well as the Commemorative Declaration of the 25th Anniversary of the OSCE's Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and 15th Anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. These commemorative declarations recognise the continuing relevance and undiminished value of the documents and reaffirm the OSCE's commitment to fully and faithfully implement the Code of Conduct, the Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and UNSCR 1540. We see the agreements on these Declarations also as a confirmation of the importance we attach to the OSCE's work in these areas, through facilitating discussion and information exchange, organising annual meetings on Code of Conduct implementation, and maintaining close coordination with the UNSC 1540 Committee for better implementation of resolution 1540. The Declarations also send an important political signal that, when political will is in place, consensus can be achieved, despite differences among pS. We hope that we use this positive spirit to make progress in other important areas at the FSC next year.

We supported inclusion of a more substantive reference to UNSCR 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the Code of Conduct Declaration and a reference to it in the non-proliferation declaration. We nevertheless welcome agreement of a specific reference to the promotion of equal opportunities and full and meaningful participation of women. The EU and its Member States remains determined to continue to lead globally on these issues, including in the OSCE context and we will continue to strengthen our efforts towards full implementation of the WPS agenda, especially in light of the upcoming 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in 2020.

Mr. Chairperson, we regret that it was not possible to reach consensus on the Draft Declaration on the Implementation and Modernisation of the Vienna Document. We remain committed to the full implementation in letter and spirit of existing commitments in the politico-military dimension and continue to support the substantial modernisation of the Vienna Document, as well as the further development of Conventional Arms Control, Confidence and Security Building Measures and other instruments in the politico-military toolbox. We engaged constructively on the Draft Declaration. We stand ready to work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs in Europe. The modernisation of our OSCE politico-military toolbox, most notably the Vienna Document, is vital in order to increase military stability, transparency and predictability. We are convinced that this would bring greater long-term security for all participating States. In this context, we see the joint proposal supported by 33 participating States as an opportunity to launch a constructive negotiation in the FSC in the coming year. We view this proposal in a positive light. We acknowledge that other VD modernisation proposals remain on the table and deserve consideration. Negotiation is a path to rebuild trust and confidence. We urge all participating States to engage actively and constructively in these important discussions at OSCE in 2020.

Finally, our sincere thanks go to the colleagues from the FSC support section who significantly contributed with their knowledge to the positive outcome in the politico-military dimension in Bratislava.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.