



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1243 Vienna, 10 October 2019

EU statement in response to the report by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre

The European Union would like to welcome Ambassador Marcel Pesko back at the Permanent Council and thank him for his report on the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC). As this is his last report in his capacity as Director of the CPC, we would like to warmly thank Ambassador Pesko for his work over the last four years and his dedication in steering the implementation of the CPC's conflict prevention mandate.

Conflict prevention and response to emerging crises lie at the very heart of OSCE activities. As the OSCE plays a central normative role for European security and is the inclusive platform for dialogue and confidence building, it is important that the Organization has the ability and tools to prevent and respond to crises and conflicts.

The European Union believes that full implementation of MC Decision 3/11 is a prerequisite for strengthening the capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation, mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation across all three dimensions. In this context, we welcome the work undertaken by the CPC, the autonomous institutions and other executive structures in close co-operation with other international actors.

The latest developments in the Normandy format and the TCG meetings give us some hope for the future. In this context, we commend the CPC for maintaining and supporting the OSCE's engagement in Ukraine in an impartial, flexible and

professional manner and for its support to the SMM, the TCG, the PCU and the Observer Mission at the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints. Especially the SMM continues to operate in a very challenging environment in carrying out its mandate particularly in areas held by Russia-backed armed formations and we reiterate that the SMM must have full, safe and unhindered access throughout Ukraine, including the Crimean peninsula and to the Ukraine-Russia state border. We continue to believe that the full potential of the OSCE should be used and encourage the CPC to do all it can to maintain cooperation, flow of information, and synergies between OSCE structures, as well as – where appropriate – between OSCE and other international actors, active in Ukraine.

The resolution of protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova, in Georgia, and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains a priority for the EU. As this is a core task of the OSCE, it must stay high on the agenda of the Organization. We value the contribution of the CPC in this regard, particularly the support provided to the Special Representatives. The EU reiterates its strong support for the existing negotiation formats. We should intensify the efforts to resolve protracted conflicts.

The EU welcomes the work carried out by the CPC to support field operations. We continue to support the strong and flexible mandates of field operations, as they play an important role in early warning and in addressing tensions and conflicts. Their work with and across host countries and with civil society is of tremendous importance for early warning, peace building, conflict prevention and mediation.

The EU attaches great importance to the support given by the CPC to Central Asian field operations. We also commend the excellent work of the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The EU welcomes the CPC's efforts to develop new ways of operating in the South Caucasus. We support the "Armenia Co-operation Programme" and the CPC endeavours in this regard. We appreciate the establishment of co-ordination

mechanisms between the UN, the EU and the OSCE to discuss regional developments in Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe.

We also appreciate the role of the CPC in early warning and early response, for example through the Situation/Communications Room and the network of Early Warning Focal Points. The work carried out by the Mediation Support Unit in close co-operation and exchange with the UN, the EU and other counterparts is also highly appreciated. We welcome the ongoing work of the OSCE field operations under the auspices of the CPC to support SSG/R activities.

We reiterate our strong commitment to the full implementation in letter and spirit of the existing principles and commitments in the politico-military dimension. We remain strong supporters of the modernisation of the Vienna Document, in order to increase military stability, transparency and predictability in the OSCE area. We are convinced that this would bring more long-term security for all participating States. We support the activities connected to SALW and highly value the Structured Dialogue as a transparent, inclusive, state-owned, state-driven and confidence building process, without a predetermined outcome and of high relevance for the EU. We thank the CPC for its continued support provided to the Forum for Security Co-operation. The EU remains a strong supporter of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Ahead of next week's Symposium to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct entitled 'From Budapest to Budapest (1994-2019)', we express our gratitude to Hungary and the Conflict Prevention Centre for their commitment to organise this commemorative event, in cooperation with the Slovak Chairmanship and the Czech FSC Chairmanship.

On gender equality, the EU considers the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related Resolutions as highly important. We therefore appreciate your commitment to gender mainstreaming, to promoting the role of

women in the security sector, their full inclusion and participation in peace processes, and welcome the activities of the CPC to advance this.

We recognize the importance that youth can play in the promotion of security in the OSCE area, including through regional cooperation such as the engagement of the field missions with RYCO in the Western Balkans.

We reiterate that the CPC, autonomous institutions and field missions must be provided through the UB with the resources necessary to carry out their mandate effectively and efficiently. We agree with you Ambassador that we have a shared political and financial responsibility for collective security and for the OSCE comprehensive conflict cycle toolbox.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to once again thank the CPC staff and its Director for their valuable work. We continue to fully support the CPC and wish Ambassador Pesko and his dedicated staff every success in their future activities.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, MONACO 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.