



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE 2013 Annual Security Review Conference Vienna, 19-20 June 2013

EU statement on Working Session II - Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post conflict rehabilitation: lessons learned and the way ahead

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank H.E. Roza Otunbayeva and Ms. Mo Bleeker for their valuable presentations, which provide a good basis for today's discussions.

Political tension and open conflict, both within and outside the OSCE area, continue to have an adverse effect on us all. Strengthening the OSCE's capacity to address the conflict cycle, and achieving tangible progress in the resolution and prevention of conflicts, remains a priority for us.

We welcome the systematic and creative implementation of MC Decision 3/11 on the Elements of the Conflict Cycle by the CPC, institutions and other executive structures. We are heartened by the steps taken by the OSCE to strengthen co-operation with other relevant international organisations and we commend the Secretary General for his efforts. We hope that further mapping of potential areas for co-operation will ensure that efforts of international organisations complement and not duplicate each other.

We welcome the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group on the Conflict Cycle and take an active part in its meetings which enable all OSCE participating States to share their views on the implementation of MC Decision 3/11. We are encouraged by the debates within the OEWG and see value in continuing this good practice. We are firmly convinced that the comprehensive implementation of all provisions of MC Decision 3/11 is a logical contribution to the Helsinki+40 process.

We agree there is a need to close the gap between early warning and early action. In particular, we think the Secretary General's reports to the PC on emerging tensions and conflicts are a useful early warning tool, complementing the existing mandates. We would appreciate strengthened follow-up reporting to the PC on measures taken by the Secretariat, as a consequence of previous early warning reports of the SG.

Strengthening the OSCE's conflict resolution capacities and special competences - and making better use of them - should be an essential element in the Helsinki+40 process. We see value in organising thematic meetings devoted to specific conflicts in the OSCE area and look forward to the Security Day on the topic of conflict resolution. We agree that further strengthening OSCE capacities and capabilities in monitoring and verification can be an effective contribution to conflict prevention and resolution and we encourage the Secretariat to identify best practices in the OSCE's involvement in peace processes.

We welcome the active efforts undertaken by the CPC to strengthen the OSCE's capacities in dialogue facilitation and mediation support and look forward to further steps in this regard, including strengthening the role of OSCE mediators and their engagement in mediation efforts.

Furthermore, we look forward to identifying the potential role of women across the conflict cycle. We underline our support for the adoption of an OSCE wide action plan on Women, Peace and Security which could be an important step in the implementation of MC Dec. 3/11 and the Helsinki+40 process.

We will spare no effort in helping to consolidate the Organisation's post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction capabilities. We commend the work of the CPC and field operations in assisting participating States in undertaking Security Sector Reform activities, especially police reform and the reform of justice systems.

We think that reconciliation is a prerequisite for sustainable peace and advancing toward a security community. Increased attention should be given to reconciliation efforts and we are ready to consider concrete initiatives in this area. We will also

continue to use activities in the Economic and Environmental Dimension to promote confidence and security building.

Mr. Chairman,

Protracted conflicts remain a threat to the security of the entire OSCE area. The resolution of the existing conflicts in the OSCE area is a top priority for the EU. We strongly support the efforts of the Chairmanship to promote lasting settlements.

The European Union remains deeply committed to the “5+2” talks. The EU appeals to all participants involved to advance the discussions on the substance of the settlement, based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and we support the Ukrainian Chairmanship’s efforts to this end. We emphasise once again that the “5+2” format remains the only format capable of guaranteeing the transparency and legitimacy necessary for a lasting solution to the Transdniestrian conflict. We call on all of those involved to maintain their commitment and openness during the talks and to engage without delay in discussions of questions of security and the issues related to the status of Transdniestria within the Republic of Moldova. The European Union will continue to play a full role in achieving a political settlement and supporting its implementation once a settlement is achieved. We hope that future talks will see all participants engaged in achieving substantial progress in the political settlement of the conflict.

The EU also takes this opportunity to reaffirm its support for the Minsk Group and to restate its complete confidence in the commitment of the Co-Chairs to the search for a fair and lasting settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The EU also would like to reaffirm its readiness to facilitate these efforts through complementary measures in the field of confidence-building. We urge the parties to focus on constructive dialogue and encourage them to take greater advantage of the efforts being made by the Co-Chairs. We also welcome the monitoring activities conducted by the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office. In this vein, we urge the parties to avoid actions or rhetoric that could raise tensions in the region or damage the talks.

The EU remains committed to a lasting and peaceful resolution to the conflict in Georgia. We reiterate our firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, within its internationally recognised borders. We repeat our concern at the continuing Russian military and security-related presence in the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. We remain particularly concerned about the increased fencing activities by Russia along the areas adjacent to the South Ossetia Administrative Boundary Line. Such measures have negative effects on freedom of movement of the local population and are contrary to international norms and commitments. The EU calls on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and the Implementing Measures of 8 September 2008, including by providing unhindered access to EUMM to the breakaway regions. The EUMM plays a leading role in the IPRMs within its stabilisation, normalisation and confidence-building mandate. But we remain convinced of the urgent need for a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia, in particular for the benefit of the civilian population, including a robust monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary lines.

The European Union reiterates its strong support for the Geneva Discussions, the latest round of which took place on 27 March 2013 under the co-chairmanship of the EU. The current format of the Geneva discussions continues to be the only forum to address and resolve the challenges and problems related to the conflict in Georgia. We look forward to the next round of the Geneva International Discussions scheduled for 25-26 June 2013.

The EU will continue to promote and support confidence building measures to assist the resolution of these conflicts, in co-operation with the OSCE and other relevant international organisations.

In conclusion, we would once again like to thank the keynote speakers for their valuable contributions. We look forward to a fruitful discussion today.

The Acceding Country CROATIA*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia 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.