



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 733 Vienna, 6 November 2013

EU Statement on the Montreux Document on Private Military and Security Companies

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to thank the Luxembourg Chair of the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) for organising this Security Dialogue on the Montreux Document on Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) and thank Mr. Jürg Lindenmann, Deputy Director in the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, for his insightful presentation.

Private Military and Security Companies play a wide variety of roles in complex and dangerous environments around the world, including in armed conflicts. It is important therefore that they must conform to international legal standards.

Implementing earlier EU Council endorsement, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton expressed the EU's support to the Montreux Document on 27 July 2012. The upholding of existing obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and customary international law also in regard of private military and security companies in armed conflict is a core objective of EU policies.

We hope that other international organisations that contract private military and security companies will also support the Montreux Document so that it will continue to help all international actors to ensure respect for the rule of law.

The European Union and six Member States have also expressed their readiness to participate in the Advisory Forum of Montreux Document Participants with the purpose of providing advice to the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers' Association which was launched in Geneva on 19 September 2013.

Furthermore, we have engaged constructively in the UN Human Rights Council Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group in Geneva to "consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies".

Finally, we reiterate our call to consider providing voluntary information on PMSCs in the annual replies to the OSCE Code of Conduct information exchange.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA^{*}, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND^{**} and SERBIA, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ARMENIA align themselves with this statement.

^{*} 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 EFTA and the European Economic Area.