



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°896 Vienna, 24 October 2018**

---

#### **EU Statement on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: Rights of Military Personnel**

---

The Member States of the European Union warmly welcome the distinguished speakers to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank them for their thoughtful presentations.

This is our second discussion on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security under the current FSC Chairmanship. We are grateful to Sweden for providing us with the opportunity to address the Code of Conduct again while focussing on 'Defence Personnel Policy, Training and Education from an Individual Rights' Perspective'. We commend the speakers for sharing their national and institutional experience and good practice.

We remain strong supporters of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and attach great importance to the full implementation of its norms and principles, including those related to human rights of armed forces personnel.

The European Union is founded on a shared determination to promote peace and stability. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, the rule of law, respect for human dignity, and equality between women and men are common values that guide the external policies of the European Union including Common Security and Defence Policy. Adherence to international legal norms, both with respect to human rights and international humanitarian law and to the highest standards of behaviour are essential to the EU credibility and the success of the CSDP missions and operations. This is recognized in the EU Global Strategy which

stresses that the EU's external credibility and influence depends on the ability to consistently live up to the values internally.

In this context, Upgraded Generic Standards of Behaviour for CSDP Missions and Operations were most recently elaborated and endorsed by the Council on 22 January 2018. The aim of the document is to set up the highest professional standards of behaviour to be implemented both within the missions and operations themselves, and with the populations of the host countries. The European Union CSDP civilian missions and military missions and operations are guided by the fundamental values of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, the rule of law, respect for human dignity, and equality between women and men enshrined in the Treaty on European Union (TEU), the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including humanitarian (IHL), human rights and refugee law. The EU, its Member States and participating Third Countries are to uphold a zero tolerance policy towards misconduct and criminal acts in CSDP missions and operations as a key guiding principle.

The Heads of Mission or Commanders are responsible for the implementation of the Generic Standards of Behaviour in the mission or operation. They must act as role models and lead by example by upholding the highest standards of conduct. At the same time CSDP missions or operations personnel are expected to familiarize themselves with the Generic Standards of Behaviour and other relevant documents such as codes of conduct and discipline, including by attending required training.

We will continue to support the efforts of the FSC Chair, the Conflict Prevention Centre and the FSC Co-ordinator on the Code of Conduct to address issues related to improving deficiencies in implementing and reporting on the Code of Conduct as well as outreach activities in accordance with Decision 1/08 in promoting the principles and norms stipulated in the Code of Conduct outside the OSCE area, such as those held in Washington (2017) and Bucharest (2018). We also look forward to the Symposium organised in November in Berlin to discuss the outcome of the Annual Implementation Discussion and the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct while sharing practical experience. We hope that this meeting, as well as today's

security dialogue help reinforce the value and importance of the Code of Conduct in contributing to our mutual, cooperative security, especially at a time when we prepare to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country ICELAND, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.