



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°851 Vienna, 3 May 2017

EU Statement in response to Ambassador Mikhail Ulyanov, Director of the Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome Ambassador Mikhail Ulyanov, Director of the Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank him for outlining the priorities of the Russian FSC Chairmanship. We would also like to use the opportunity to once again thank the Romanian FSC Chairmanship for its able leadership during the last trimester.

We would like to thank you, Ambassador Ulyanov, for presenting the agenda of security dialogues under the Russian FSC Chairmanship. We look forward to discussions on important FSC topics, such as conventional arms control, SALW, conventional ammunition, the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (UNSCR 1540), while taking into account also international developments including in the UN context. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss the pertinent security issues of the prevention of military incidents.

We stress at the same time the importance to continue in this forum the constructive discussions called for by a large majority of participating States regarding the modernization of the Vienna Document. We also look forward to further events planned by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, especially the Breakout Workshop on CSBMs on 12 to 13 June, and the deliberations in the framework of the IWG on the structured dialogue.

We reiterate the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective across our work including through dedicated security dialogues in line with MC decisions and previous FSC Chairmanships.

Mr. Chairman, regrettably, trust in the European security order has been undermined over the last years due to the blatant violation of international law and basic OSCE principles by the Russian Federation. Its illegal annexation of Crimea and destabilizing actions in eastern Ukraine have shaken the very principles of the European security order, including sovereign equality, the non-use of force and territorial integrity. These actions cannot be ignored and must be reversed. They have put relations between the EU and Russia to a severe test and jeopardised more than 20 years of partnership.

It is essential to restore this trust. Without this trust we will not be able jointly to address the challenges and opportunities that face us all. And much will depend on concrete steps. First and foremost, we need to resolve the crisis in and around Ukraine. As repeated many times in this forum, a sustainable political solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine can only be reached through full implementation of the Minsk agreements. Russia has a special responsibility and a role to play in this regard, including through using its considerable influence over the separatists it backs to meet their commitments under the Minsk Agreements and to stop providing support to the separatists.

Mr. Chairman, as the EU Global Strategy points out – the EU and Russia are interdependent. We will therefore engage Russia to discuss disagreements and to cooperate if and when our interests overlap. In this context we look forward to our deliberations under your FSC Chairmanship and wish you and your team success in its conduct.

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

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