



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Norwegian FSC Chairmanship for organising this Security Dialogue on the topic “Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures”. We also warmly welcome Colonel (ret.) Wolfgang Richter of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs back to the FSC and thank him for his insightful briefing on this important issue.

In the current circumstances, a commitment to strengthen the Vienna Document doubtlessly requires political will. However, a more robust document, including in times of crises, will yield long-term security gains for all participating States outweighing the political reservations that have frozen the current dialogue. This is why we support discussions aimed at identifying ways to improve specific provisions of the Vienna Document. We recall the proposals that have been put forward in this regard, including the proposals made by EU member states. We look forward to negotiations on updating and modernizing the Vienna Document on CSBMs in 2016, including a comprehensive review of the Vienna Document Plus proposals with the aim of increasing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States.

Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs are important pillars of our security community and remain the cornerstone of the OSCE politico-military commitments. This security dialogue provides a useful opportunity for discussions on the ongoing challenges in relation to arms control and CSBMs and how best to take this issue forward. Both Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs are crucial in pursuing our goal of realising the vision of an OSCE security community.

We reiterate that Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol and the destabilising actions in eastern Ukraine pose a serious challenge to the European security. Russia’s selective approach to the implementation of Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs commitments is regrettable and undermines trust and confidence within the OSCE. It is

therefore necessary to restore full implementation of our commitments by all participating States and find solutions together.

Therefore it is important both to fully implement and strengthen our existing OSCE commitments in the politico-military area. As reiterated in the past, such a task should be pursued with the aim of improving substantially the overall level of implementation of the Vienna Document and other Confidence and Security-Building Measures taking stock of the experience and lessons learned during the crisis in and around Ukraine.

Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs are not designed to solve conflicts. Their main purpose is to prevent them. Their modernisation should therefore provide for more stability and predictability and hence strengthen security in Europe. We support continued broad discussions on conventional arms control under the FSC Security Dialogue and look particularly forward to the upcoming Security Dialogue on Military Doctrines in preparation of the High Level Military Doctrine Seminar in February 2016. The High Level Military Doctrine Seminar as a Confidence- and Security-Building Measure, being a high-level military-to-military dialogue, might pave the way for discussions on revitalizing Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs.

In conclusion, we underline our firm belief that lasting security in and for Europe can only be achieved through a collaborative effort of all participating States and a genuine commitment to the instruments of comprehensive and cooperative security.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA 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.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.