



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°979 Vienna, 9 June 2021

EU Statement in response to the CSTO

The European Union and its Member States thank the speakers for their presentations and the Armenian FSC Chairmanship for drawing the attention of the Forum to the work of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in countering current security challenges.

We see our interaction today in the context of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative security which rests on the underlying premise that **security of each state is inseparably linked to that of all others** and therefore that co-operation is beneficial to and necessary for all states.

We shall continue to reiterate the basic principles of co-operative security in Europe proclaimed in the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1999 Charter for European Security and other OSCE documents. This includes the **inherent right of each participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements** and the commitment of each participating State to **respect the rights of all others** in this regard, as well as the commitment on the **non-use of force or the threat of force** and **peaceful resolution of disputes** as set out in the UN Charter. Co-operative security can only be achieved **if states fully comply with the commitments they have signed up** to and make sure that our common values become a reality.

We underline a pivotal role of the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, in advancing peace and security in Europe. The OSCE, as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation, has led over the years to a number of

key commitments across all three dimensions, including in the key area of arms control and CSBMs: the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty, the Open Skies Treaty, the Vienna Document, and the Code of Conduct on Politico-military Aspects of Security. Their full implementation in good faith, in particular in the current period of heightened tensions and undeniable challenges to the instruments, is crucial for restoring military security and stability throughout the OSCE region. At the same time, given the evolving security environment and technological developments in the military sphere, we again underline the need to update and modernise our existing politico-military commitments, in particular the Vienna Document. We will continue to support all efforts to this end and encourage others to do likewise. Political will is key in this context. We also recall the ministerial commitment of all participating States at Hamburg in 2016 to work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating arms control and CSBMs in Europe.

For the European Union and its Member States, the issue of regional cooperation is of particular importance and we welcome regular discussions in this Forum on this subject. We should not forget that the European Union itself is an example of regional cooperation. It was created in response to the most devastating conflict in the history of humanity, with the objective to make such conflicts impossible in the future.

The EU Global Strategy, elaborated five years ago, identified our main priority actions for the future. One of them is to **support cooperative regional orders** that offer States and peoples the **opportunity to better manage security concerns. The Helsinki Final Act created such an order.** The sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States, the inviolability of borders and the peaceful settlement of disputes, are all key elements of the European security order. **These principles must be respected** by all OSCE participating states and, where violated or challenged, they must be restored. Moreover, the EU will work towards strengthening of a global order based on international law and the rule of law with effective multilateralism as its key principle and the United Nations at its core.

We believe that we can achieve **security and stability only by strengthening the resilience of societies**, their prosperity and systems of governance that respect basic freedoms and human rights. Moreover, only an integrated and comprehensive

approach to security, such as the one we pursue here at the OSCE, can provide for a lasting and sustainable security.

The EU will promote adherence to and implementation of the principles and commitments of the OSCE. **We are open for interaction and cooperation with all actors and players**, including other regional organizations **who share these principles**.

Finally, we thank the Chair for providing us with the opportunities to exchange views on this topic.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, the EFTA countries ICELAND, 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 Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.