



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 709 Vienna, 13 February 2013

EU Statement on Presentations on the Vienna Document, CSBMs and Conventional Arms Control

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to thank the FSC Chairmanship Liechtenstein for organising this Security Dialogue on "Presentations on the Vienna Document, Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) and Conventional Arms Control". It provides a useful opportunity for discussion on the on-going challenges in relation to arms control and CSBMs and how best to take this issue forward in pursuing our goal of realising the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community. We would also like to welcome and thank Lt.-Gen. Evgeny Buzhinski and Dr. Wolfgang Zellner for their interesting and thought-provoking analysis concerning this topic.

We emphasise the importance of strengthening and modernizing conventional arms control and CSBMs, as one of the pillars of our security community. These instruments should be brought into conformity with the current military and security conditions. We consider therefore that a modern, functional conventional arms control regime that increases verifiable transparency of armed forces is vital for the security and stability of the whole Euro-Atlantic / Eurasian area. We consider abiding commitments on arms control and CSBMs regimes, as set out in Astana, Vilnius and other relevant OSCE documents, to be not just valid basis for the FSC work in 2013 but also in need of further progression.

We noted that the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the OSCE attaches high importance to the issues of arms control, disarmament and CSBMs as an integral part of the OSCE concept of comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security, as well as Ukraine's plans to work closely with the Chairs of the Forum for Security Cooperation to

facilitate discussion within the existing FSC formats. In this context we would like to reiterate once again our readiness to actively and appropriately contribute to work in this area.

We would support therefore general and strategic discussions on conventional arms control, which could take place under the FSC Security Dialogue. Such discussions should be coherent with related activities and possible Helsinki + 40 developments, create added value and avoid duplication with other formats.

We would like to reiterate also our readiness to pursue both a pragmatic and forward looking approach in the process of substantial modernisation of the Vienna Document on CSBMs with the aim of ensuring its continued relevance, and increasing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States. We are ready to actively contribute to this process. It will be important to give careful consideration to all VD+ proposals tabled so far, as well as others yet to be presented.

To conclude, we would like to thank again the speakers and the FSC Chairmanship for providing us with this excellent occasion to exchange views on the present and the future of CSBMs and conventional arms control in Europe.

The acceding country CROATIA^{*}, 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 country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

^{*} Croatia, 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.