



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 726 Vienna, 11 September 2013

EU Statement on the Assumption of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co- operation by Luxembourg

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn to the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and thank him for presenting the FSC Chairmanship's programme for the last trimester of 2013. We believe it provides a solid basis for successfully preparing the meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Kyiv in December this year.

We take this occasion to congratulate the outgoing FSC Chairmanships Liechtenstein and Lithuania for their outstanding performance in furthering the FSC work since the beginning of 2013 and wish Malta every success as a new member of the FSC Troika.

This is the right moment, we believe, to reiterate once again our strong and continued commitment to the improvement of the already rich FSC normative and implementation record. Such an endeavour should be in the same way practical, pragmatic and forward-leaning. We see a continued need for substantial modernisation of the Vienna Document to bring it in line with today's political and military reality and look forward to discussions on further substantial as well as technical VD+ proposals. We will continue to support general and strategic discussion on the future of Conventional Arms Control in Europe, including in the framework of the Helsinki+40 process,

provided it brings added value and avoids duplication with other formats.

Furthermore, enhanced multilateral cooperation and coherence, in particular in view of curbing the illicit spread and destabilising accumulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and conventional ammunition, is necessary in order to keep the OSCE *acquis* at the forefront of international efforts. In this regard, we welcome the intention of the Luxembourg FSC Chairmanship to dedicate Security Dialogues to the implications of the Arms Trade Treaty and the potential role of the OSCE in its early entry into force and implementation.

We share, as well, your assessment, Mr Deputy Prime Minister, that the security of Afghanistan is indivisible from sustainable security in the whole region of Central Asia. We therefore support regional cooperation in Central Asia where the OSCE, with its comprehensive approach to security, can be of assistance. In this respect we welcome the intent to organise a joint PC-FSC meeting on Afghanistan.

We are firmly convinced that the OSCE role and capacities devoted to the implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1540 need to be further enhanced. In this context, we are in favour of the updating of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and would like to assure partners of our support for constructive and inclusive consultations with the aim of reaching consensus as soon as possible. In the same vein, we very much appreciate the circulation of a new revised draft of an OSCE-Wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and hope it could be thoroughly discussed and adopted before the end of this year.

The successful annual discussion on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security that took place in July this year is an additional incentive for OSCE pS to continue striving for its improved implementation and outreach. We are therefore looking forward to the discussions on this topic scheduled by the Luxembourg FSC Chairmanship.

When it comes to the Kyiv Ministerial Council preparations, including the negotiation of possible decisions, we see them as a key juncture in advancing the overall FSC agenda rather than as an end in itself. Thus, having reminded of our priorities, we are ready to engage in this important process with confidence, in order to build upon our own implementation record and consistent stance aimed at strengthening the OSCE commitments in the politico-military dimension of security.

En conclusion, l'UE souhaite réitérer son plein soutien à la présidence luxembourgeoise et à la Troïka alors que le Forum pour la coopération en matière de sécurité entame une période de travail exigeante en vue d'échéances importantes.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA^{*}, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND^{**} and SERBIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country ALBANIA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

^{*} 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.