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## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE 2011 Annual Security Review Conference Vienna, 29 June 2011

## **EU statement at the Special Session on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation**

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The EU thanks the Lithuanian Chairmanship for organising today's special session on Partners for Co-operation, which the EU views as a timely opportunity to focus on the interaction with our Partners and its relevance in view of present and future security challenges.

As recognised by the OSCE Heads of State or Government in the Astana Commemorative Declaration, there is an inextricable link between the security of the OSCE area and that of its adjacent areas, notably the Mediterranean and Asia, and developments, particularly in the Mediterranean region, since the Summit have further contributed to reinforce this perspective.

In this context, the EU would like to once more underline its strong support for the ongoing efforts to assist Partners implementing reform programmes or undergoing democratic transition processes. We believe that there is a significant role to be played by the OSCE in this regard, based on our Organisation's specific acquis and expertise in all three dimensions of security. Future enhanced co-operation should be needs-oriented and in response to the explicit requests by individual Partners for Cooperation.

We commend the Lithuanian Chairmanship on the steps taken so far in the OSCE context that point towards the right direction. We started by identifying the instruments that can be made available as well as the possible areas of increased assistance and we now witness the ongoing dialogue between individual Partner countries and the OSCE's executive structures on possible concrete modalities. We fully support this action-oriented dialogue and underline the fact that this special session of the ASRC constitutes another key opportunity for Partners to let us now about their needs and their point of view on which practical co-operation steps should be taken.

Mr Chairperson,

Addressing transnational threats and challenges is a particular area where participating States and Partners for Co-operation find themselves united in the necessity, but also in the opportunity to work together. The EU is aware that Partners face different kinds and degrees of transnational threats, so their respective capacities and their need for international and regional co-operation and assistance also differ.

In this vein, further exchange of information and best-practices, projects on capacity building and cross-dimensional programmes on respect for human rights and the rule of law in national prosecution and jurisdiction might be particularly well suited. The EU is of the view that the regular meetings of the two Contact Groups with the OSCE Partners could be used more systematically to identify concrete needs and tools in this regard.

Mr Chairperson,

The EU is strongly committed to international efforts to promote a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan. We are committed to contributing to improve State and institutional capacity, accountability, human rights and an efficient public administration; and enabling the Afghan authorities to assume more responsibilities, while the international community gradually

takes a more supportive role. Further OSCE engagement with Afghanistan should continue to rely on associating Afghan officials to OSCE efforts to address transnational threats, at the same time we also see potential in other fields, as long as duplication with other international efforts is avoided and financial and security implications are duly taken into consideration.

Mr Chairperson,

As a general note, we wish to underline that the EU believes that future and enhanced interaction with the Partners for Co-operation should follow needs and requests of Partners and be geared to comparative strengths that the OSCE can offer. It should avoid duplication with respect to efforts of other international actors.

A more focused and results-oriented interaction with the Partners for Co-operation constitutes one of the priorities for EU action in the OSCE, throughout the year and also regarding the Vilnius ministerial meeting, where we hope to adopt a decision on the enhancement of the dialogue and co-operation with OSCE Partners. The good work being done to intensify practical co-operation, as well as the continuous qualitative improvement in the dialogue undertaken in the Contact Groups, allow us to feel confident about future perspectives.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

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