



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation 734th Plenary Meeting

Wednesday, 13 November 2013

EU Statement on Arms control in Europe

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to thank the Luxembourg Chair of the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) for having organised another Security Dialogue on conventional arms control in Europe, which provides a useful opportunity for discussion on the topic. We would also like to welcome and thank today's presenter, Mr. Anton Mikhnenko, Deputy Director, Centre for Army, Ukraine for his analysis and interesting suggestions which we will study carefully.

We view the existing commitments on CSBMs and arms control regimes, as set out in Astana, Vilnius and other relevant OSCE documents, to be the valid basis for further discussions. We reiterate that revitalising, updating and modernising the comprehensive acquis should contribute to charting a way towards the security community identified at the Astana Summit and be one of the building blocks in the framework of the "Helsinki +40" process.

Thus, preserving and strengthening conventional arms control in Europe should increase mutual confidence, stability, transparency, and predictability regarding the current and future force levels of all participating States.

We favour general and strategic discussions on conventional arms control within the framework of the FSC Security Dialogue and of the "Helsinki +40" process. As we stated earlier this year, discussions should be coherent with related activities, create added value and avoid duplication with other formats. The 1996 OSCE Framework for Arms

Control could serve as a solid basis for our future deliberations in this regard.

As such, we reiterate our determination to actively work towards finding a solution in order to overcome the impasse on conventional arms control. A modern and effective conventional arms control regime remains important for the security of the whole OSCE area which is indivisible, comprehensive, and cooperative.

The continued FSC commitment to live up to, adapt and further develop the whole range of OSCE tools in the broader field of conventional arms control should be a concrete step in this direction. In our opinion, the Ministerial Council in Kyiv provides participating States with an excellent opportunity in this respect.

Such an endeavour should be at the same time pragmatic and forward-looking. This is the reason why, the EU and its Member States remain pro-actively and constructively engaged in every discussion with potential impact on the improvement and the strengthening of our conventional arms control commitments.

To conclude, we would like to once again thank the speaker and the FSC Chairmanship for providing us with the opportunity to exchange views on conventional arms control in Europe.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and MONTENEGRO, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, 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.