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**EU Statement in reply to the presentation on "Reorientation of the
Bundeswehr"**

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to thank Admiral Thorsten Kähler, Director Security Policy in the Ministry of Defence of Germany, for his comprehensive and insightful presentation on the "Reorientation of the Bundeswehr". Our gratitude goes also to the Lithuanian Chairmanship for organising this Security Dialogue, which usefully complements other national presentations made in this forum on evolving defence policies and reforms. There is no doubt that these constitute a significant contribution to enhancing transparency and trust in the OSCE politico-military dimension of security.

Today's presentation shows that the fulfilment of existing politico-military commitments, and openness to their further modernisation, should not be hampered by and go hand in hand with any major transformation of armed forces. This underpins the urgency and our readiness to actively contribute to the process of substantial modernisation of the Vienna Document, which should be done in a cost effective manner with full regard to resource restraints, with the further aim of improving the level of implementation.

In the broader context, we would like to remind participating States that the EU Foreign Affairs Council underlined in its Conclusions of 19 November 2012 the necessity to maximise the effectiveness of Europe's defence expenditure in times of financial austerity. To this end, the Council remains committed to enhance European

cooperation including through the pooling and sharing of military capabilities.

To conclude, we would like to thank again Admiral Thorsten Kähler for his comprehensive presentation and wish him every success in his professional endeavours.

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 countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA 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.