



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 762 Vienna, 10 September 2014

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

The European Union (EU) and its Member States welcome H.E. José Badia, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Monaco, and express our gratitude for having outlined the FSC Chairmanship's programme and his country's views on the current security situation in the OSCE area.

We would also like to congratulate the outgoing Moldovan FSC Chairmanship for successfully fulfilling its task to advance the FSC work, in particular through a balanced and comprehensive Security Dialogues' agenda. We commend the Moldovan Chairmanship for its high professionalism and dedication shown in adverse circumstances dominated by the crisis in and around Ukraine. We wish Mongolia every success as a new member of the FSC Troika and thank Malta, which is leaving the Troika, for their efforts and commitment over the past year.

Unfortunately, the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence by the Russian Federation has become the main focus of the OSCE, including in the FSC.

We reiterate our strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and will not recognise it. The European Union stands firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and calls upon the Russian Federation to do likewise.

Numerous attempts to use the FSC mandate and the existing politico-military toolbox to the full extent were undercut as the situation on the ground has been further escalating, threatening not only Ukraine and its people but also the whole European security architecture.

We welcome the agreement on a ceasefire reached in Minsk on 5 September 2014 which must be respected and fully implemented by all sides. We hope that this will be a first step towards a sustainable political solution, based on respect for Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

We stress that permanent monitoring of the Russian-Ukrainian border and withdrawal of illegal armed groups and Russian forces operating on Ukrainian territory, as well as comprehensive observation of the implementation of the ceasefire, must be integral parts of such a solution.

The European Union stands ready to support any efforts related to the implementation of the ceasefire, including through the OSCE. We note with concern in this respect that the ceasefire was violated a number of times as reported by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission. We call once again on all sides to respect and fully implement the ceasefire agreement.

It is our firm opinion that upholding OSCE politico-military commitments and making full use of them, both in letter and in spirit, to decisively de-escalate the situation on the ground remains the top FSC priority under the current circumstances.

Your Excellency,

We highly appreciate the efforts the FSC Chairmanship has already undertaken to develop, in consultation with the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office, a clear vision of the FSC work related to the preparations of the Ministerial Council in Basel as well as the FSC contribution to the Helsinki+40 process.

In this context, we reiterate our longstanding position in favour of the full implementation, modernisation and updating of the OSCE politico-military toolbox in line with the evolving security environment and, where appropriate, the latest UN developments. The OSCE strategic objectives regarding Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures as set out in the Astana Summit Declaration and other relevant OSCE documents remain valid and should frame the FSC work and negotiations in the run up to the Basel Ministerial Council.

In the same vein, we should take stock of the crisis in and around Ukraine and its impact on the implementation of OSCE politico-military commitments, in particular

relating to the Vienna Document. We should explore ways to turn the current situation into a forward-looking reflection on CSBMs.

Furthermore, we are ready to strengthen, in line with our consistent position, the OSCE instruments and its role in curbing the illicit spread and destabilising accumulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, including taking into account the expected entry into force of ATT. In this regard, the FSC could also explore ways to take further the issue of strengthening the export control over SALW transported by sea.

Positive consideration could also be given to the Swiss CIO proposal to mark the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, as well as the successful completion of the Dayton Article IV Agreement transfer of ownership process.

Last but not least, we remain convinced that the OSCE's role and capacities devoted to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and UNSC Resolution 1540 on Non-Proliferation should be further enhanced on a sustainable basis.

En conclusion, nous souhaitons exprimer notre plein soutien à la présidence monégasque et à la Troïka alors que le Forum pour la coopération en matière de sécurité entame une période de travail exigeante.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND** and ALBANIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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