



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 785

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

The European Union (EU) and its Member States warmly welcome H.E. Igor Lukšić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro, and express our gratitude for outlining the FSC Chairmanship's programme for the second trimester of this year.

We take this occasion to also sincerely thank the outgoing Chairmanship Mongolia for the professional and dedicated way in which it has steered the FSC activities during its term. We wish Norway every success as a new member of the FSC Troika and thank Monaco, which is leaving the Troika, for their efforts and commitment over the past year.

The outgoing Mongolian Chairmanship had to assume, as its predecessors did, a highly demanding extra-task, which is to handle the FSC discussions related to the crisis in and around Ukraine.

We reiterate in this context our support to the Minsk Package of Measures and remind that only the full implementation of the Minsk agreements offers a way forward to a sustainable political solution to the crisis which must be based on full respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

We furthermore remain firmly convinced that ensuring the strict implementation, and making full use, of OSCE politico-military commitments and instruments, both in letter and spirit, by all participating States, in particular the Russian Federation, with a view

to help promote a sustainable peaceful solution to the crisis in and around Ukraine is imperative under current circumstances.

Thus, we reiterate our longstanding position in favour of the full implementation and modernisation of the OSCE politico-military toolbox, in particular the Vienna Document, in line with the evolving security environment. As a subset of this, we support discussions on lessons learned for the OSCE politico-military toolbox in the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine, with a view to identifying shortfalls and possible improvements.

Moreover, we support strengthening the OSCE norms and activities in the field of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) through improved implementation and increased coherence and complementarity with the UN framework. In view of existing terrorist threats in Europe and throughout the world we attach particular attention to the implementation of OSCE projects related to destruction of surplus SALW and SCA and secure stockpile management in the region and will continue to contribute to them. In this regard, we welcome the Montenegro FSC Chairmanship's proposal for an OSCE special meeting on SALW projects and are ready to actively support it.

The European Union supports the universalisation and the full implementation of the ATT and sees an important role for the OSCE in this regard on the basis of the provisions of MC decision 10/14.

It will be important for all participating States to support the full implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, including through its focused annual review and other measures such as enhancement of its outreach.

We remain in favour of strengthening and sustaining the OSCE role and capacities devoted to the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and related resolutions in the OSCE area and recall the importance of cooperation and interaction among relevant international organisations in order to facilitate synergies and avoid duplications.

We reiterate our commitment to the women, peace and security-agenda as established by UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions and emphasise its relevance to the work of the FSC.

In the midst of discussions on the Helsinki +40, we still believe that the FSC can play an important role in this process, offering an opportunity to address these current challenges whilst taking into account new and emerging security threats to the OSCE. In this regard, we encourage the Chairmanship to ensure that the FSC adequately features and contributes to the H+40 process, as mandated by MC decisions.

Minister Lukšić, we welcome the well balanced and comprehensive agenda for Security Dialogues and hope it will provide a solid basis for the FSC work during the Montenegro Chairmanship. We thank you once again and wish you every success in your professional endeavours.

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, SAN MARINO and MONACO align themselves with this statement.

^{*} The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro 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.