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**EU Statement in Response to the Report by the Director
of the Conflict Prevention Centre, H.E. Ambassador
Adam Kobieracki**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Adam Kobieracki for his very interesting and candid report on the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC). Strengthening the OSCE capabilities in addressing the conflict cycle should be given continued attention, in particular the implementation of MC decision 3/11 and has been further highlighted by the crisis in and around Ukraine. We highly appreciate the significant contributions of the CPC in organising and supporting the OSCE's engagement in Ukraine in an impartial, flexible and professional manner. We commend Ambassador Kobieracki and his professional and dedicated staff for their sustained efforts and commitment over many months.

In particular, we commend the CPC's role in acting swiftly to set up and support the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM), and join the Director in expressing appreciation to those other parts of the OSCE who supported this by releasing staff as first responders. After the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum, we are convinced the SMM has an even more important role to play. We are well aware of the practical and financial challenges in working for the rapid expansion of the SMM and will continue to strongly support the mission, including by providing qualified staff and appropriate equipment. We also commend the CPC for the support of the OSCE Observer Mission at two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border.

We continue to believe that we should use the full potential of the OSCE in the current situation, including through the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine

(PCU) and the OSCE autonomous institutions that are all playing a vital role in their respective areas. We would encourage the CPC to do all it can to continue to contribute to effective cooperation, exchange of information, and synergies between the different OSCE structures working in Ukraine, as well as between OSCE and other international actors active in Ukraine.

The crisis in and around Ukraine has also demonstrated the constraints on the OSCE, including on legal, financial and operational issues. We believe it is important for participating States and the Executive Structures to draw lessons from the OSCE's engagement. We appreciate that Ambassador Kobieracki in his report acknowledges that some issues could have been handled better.

We share Ambassador Kobieracki's view that field operations' mandates, including in Ukraine, allow them to contribute to the OSCE early warning mechanisms. We recall our proposal to elaborate a compendium on OSCE's involvement in peace processes. We stand ready to consider ideas, including those presented by Ambassador Kobieracki today, for further optimizing and operationalising OSCE capacities in the field of early warning, mediation support and in dealing with high risk security situations, while bearing in mind the current financial context.

The full implementation of MC Decision 3/11 is a prerequisite for strengthening the role of the Organisation in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation. We continue to support the indispensable work done by the CPC in the field and hope that efforts made to enhance internal cooperation, produce internal guidelines and identify synergies will bear fruit in the coming years.

The resolution of the protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, in the existing formats remains a top priority for the EU. We regard this as a core task of the OSCE and support the contribution of the CPC. We encourage them and the relevant field missions to continue the promotion of confidence building measures and projects which contribute to fostering understanding between all sides. This should include increased co-operation with civil society organisations in the conflict regions in order to identify

potential ways for promoting understanding and rebuilding trust and confidence. Intensified efforts to resolve existing protracted conflicts are needed.

Field missions have a central role to play throughout the conflict cycle. We are therefore pleased that a network of early warning focal points has been established. We welcome efforts to train field mission staff in mediation skills and dialogue facilitation. We further welcome the increasing attention that is being paid to Central Asia. The support and guidance provided by the CPC in co-operation with the TNT department in areas such as border management and policing is highly appreciated. Also, we appreciate engagement with Afghanistan and look forward to concrete proposals on how to deepen our cooperation with Mongolia, in accordance with the country's requests and needs.

Finally, we continue to attach great importance to the full implementation and the enhancement of existing OSCE politico-military commitments, including the Vienna Document and appreciate the assistance provided by the FSC Support Section in that regard. We are ready to strengthen, in line with our consistent position, OSCE instruments and capacities in curbing the illicit spread and destabilising accumulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, taking into account the forthcoming entry into force of ATT. Furthermore, 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.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to once again thank the CPC and its Director for their valuable work. We continue to support the indispensable work done by the CPC and wish Ambassador Kobieracki and his dedicated staff every success in their future endeavours.

The Candidate Countries FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+, SERBIA* 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 MONACO 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 the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.