

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°871
Vienna, 13 December 2017**

**EU Statement on the Outcome of the FSC elements of the
Vienna Ministerial Council**

1. The European Union and its Member States would like express gratitude to the Serbian FSC Chairmanship for their leadership and stewardship over our work prior to and during the Ministerial Council. We commend you, Ambassador Ninčić, and your excellent team, for the tireless efforts to facilitate consensus on FSC-related MC documents. This resulted in the adoption of one important FSC related MC Decision and provided for dialogue on other politico-military issues of mutual concern. We also commend the effective collaboration between your team and the Austrian Chairmanship in Office, and through you would also like to thank the CiO's politico-military representatives for their insights and tremendous effort.
2. We very much welcome the adoption of the Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition Ministerial Council Decision, the first since 2014, which is extremely important to us and will have a positive impact upon future work in this area, especially the contribution to stability and security in the OSCE region. There was a great deal of constructive and tenacious negotiating, which was patiently and determinedly steered to a successful conclusion by Minister Counsellor Pančeski. We regret that we could not reach consensus on Declarations on Promoting Military Stability and Security and the 25th Anniversary of the FSC. However, these divergences of views will in no way deter us from working hard to address the politico-military challenges before us.
3. Like most other Delegations, we remain committed to OSCE politico-military principles and the full implementation of our existing commitments. Given the current security environment as well as technological developments in the military sphere, we are determined to continue our work on the modernisation of our politico-military instruments, notably, at the FSC, on the Vienna Document.
4. We welcome the side-event on the Focussed Discussion on the Structured Dialogue

and join other Delegations in expressing support for the Structured Dialogue. We value the work done in 2017 and we will continue to actively engage in this process.

5. We hope that the outcome of the Vienna MC will provide food for thought and inspiration to the FSC Chairmanships in 2018, and add impetus to the work of the FSC. We believe that the delegations of Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden – under the overall leadership of Italy – will carry forward and build on the momentum that was achieved last week.
6. In conclusion Madame Chairperson, we thank you and your Delegation, together with the Austrian Chairmanship in Office, for doing the maximum possible to provide us with the opportunity for a fruitful MC. We highly commend the way that both your team and that of the CiO exercised your good offices.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* 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 GEORGIA 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.