



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Annual Security Review Conference Vienna, 24 June 2020

EU Statement on Working Session II: Conflicts and crises in the OSCE area: building security and confidence'

As conflicts pose a severe challenge to European Security, the European Union welcomes the fact that this working session of the Annual Security Review conference provides an important opportunity to discuss in more depth conflict situations in the OSCE area. We also welcome the special session on “Ensuring security and stability in the OSCE region in the light of developments with respect to Ukraine”. Preserving the principle of indivisibility of security in the Euro-Atlantic region should remain essential. In doing so, we should follow a comprehensive approach aimed at enhancing security for all states in the OSCE area, including regions affected by conflicts or protracted conflicts. The OSCE provides a valuable platform for dialogue aimed at rebuilding trust and restoring security based on the full and unconditional respect for OSCE principles and commitments.

We see conflict prevention and resolution as at the very heart of the OSCE. Conflict situations and protracted conflicts in our region pose a very serious threat to the security of the entire OSCE area. The status quo is detrimental to our security. The resolution of the existing conflicts in the OSCE area remains a priority for the EU and our positions on these conflicts are well known. The EU remains committed in its support to the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of all OSCE participating States. The EU supports the existing formats of negotiations and calls on all actors involved to enhance their commitment to conflict settlement. The EU will continue to promote and support confidence building measures to assist the resolution of these conflicts, in co-operation with the OSCE and other relevant interlocutors.

We support a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, based on the respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, within its internationally recognized borders, with a special status for Transnistria. We support the resumption – as soon as all the necessary conditions have been met – of the discussions in the “5+2” format, which is the only mechanism for achieving a comprehensive and sustainable resolution of the conflict. We underline the need to continue the results-oriented approach towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict and to address all three baskets, including in the political, institutional and security aspects of the third basket. The EU calls on the sides to achieve the full implementation of all agreements expressed in the protocols of the “5+2” meetings in Rome 2018, Vienna 2017 and Berlin 2016. We commend the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office for its efforts to this end.

We call for a rapid withdrawal of the remaining forces of the Russian army from the Republic of Moldova. Due to the high risk posed by weapons and ammunition depots, particularly by the one at Cobasna, we have taken note of the statements by the Russian Federation announcing its intention to destroy the ammunition from this depot. We recall that the OSCE has the mandate and means to contribute to the removal and destruction of the Russian munitions and armaments from Transnistria, and its involvement is essential to the transparency and international verification of these operations.

The European Union reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. We underline our deep concern about the ongoing Russian military and security-related presence, including illegal infrastructure reinforcements, the so-called “borderization” process and closures on the administrative boundary line in Georgia as well as steps taken by the Russian Federation aiming to include the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia into Russia’s regulatory and security space which contributes to a deterioration of the human rights situation. These steps run contrary to the principles of international law and commitments undertaken by Russia, including the EU-mediated ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and its subsequent implementing measures of 8 September 2008. We continue calling on the Russian Federation to fully implement

these commitments and believe that a clear non-use of force commitment by the Russian Federation remains essential.

The European Union expresses its unwavering commitment to peaceful resolution of the conflict in Georgia, including by continuing its engagement as a co-chair in the Geneva International Discussions, the continued presence on the ground of the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) and its involvement in the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms. We recall that the EUMM, which is the only international presence on the ground, is mandated to access the whole territory of Georgia, including the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We call on the Russian Federation to remove any obstacles to the work of the EUMM and provide the EUMM access to all regions of Georgia.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict needs the earliest possible political settlement. The European Union continues to support the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs' efforts toward the peaceful resolution of the conflict and the work of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Andrzej Kasprzyk, including through the EUSR for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, Toivo Klaar. The EU calls on the sides to strictly respect the ceasefire, follow up on commitments undertaken by their leaders and the Foreign Ministers at recent meetings under the auspices of the Co-Chairs, and engage on substantive issues. The EU stands ready to support measures to prepare the populations for peace as well as conflict rehabilitation when a peace deal is reached.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.