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**EUROPEAN UNION**

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**EU statement**

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Mr Chairperson,

The European Union appreciates this occasion to exchange views on the Dublin preparations. It is in our view a good way, and the right time, for all of us to reaffirm our commitment to the process in which we are now all fully engaged, the preparations for a successful Dublin Ministerial Council.

This engagement is for us an immediate translation of our broader adherence to the OSCE as a security organisation, to its principles and values, its commitments and goals, its comprehensive concept of security and its *acquis*.

The European Union is fully committed to this organisation and its objectives, as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and all the other documents to which we have all agreed.

This organisation is unique. It is unique because of its historical roots, where different visions finally were brought together to define what the people of this wide region, from Vancouver to Vladivostok, need to live together in peace and security. But this organisation is also unique because it is built on a concept of security that is comprehensive, multi-dimensional and indivisible. It is of core importance that conflicts are prevented and solved and confidence is built in the politico-military sphere, which still needs to be consolidated and enhanced. Furthermore, this concept has at its core the promotion of, and respect for, human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law.

In Astana, we reiterated that all OSCE principles and commitments are our common achievement, and therefore are considered to be matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all participating States. We also reaffirmed categorically and irrevocably that the commitments undertaken in the human dimension are matters of

direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned.

Finally, this organisation, including its autonomous institutions and its field missions, is unique in that it brings together all the States of our region. Its inclusive membership allows it to focus on the issues of crucial interest in the area it covers. It is also wide enough to allow meaningful progress, leaving nobody behind, without dividing lines and without black holes.

Mr Chairperson,

In a bit less than three weeks, the Ministerial Council will take place in Dublin. We all would like to make progress on a number of important issues on the agenda of this organisation.

The European Union stresses its full support to the Irish Chairmanship of the OSCE. Mr Chairperson, you and your colleagues have shown both ambition and pragmatism. On our part, we will do all we can to ensure that Dublin is indeed a success.

We remain committed to the adoption of a political declaration in Dublin. We all know where potential problems may arise. And we do not underestimate them. But we also believe that the OSCE should be able to produce a declaration on issues that are at the very core of what it is here to do.

It is essential in our view that we register the progress achieved, but also the remaining challenges and the way forward, in the settlement of the conflict in the Republic of Moldova. Similarly, we need to press further for progress in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the conflict in Georgia. We continue to press for more progress in the work done by the 5+2, the Minsk Group co-Chairs and in the Geneva International Discussions.

We are very much encouraged by the fact that the current and next Chairmanships have shown such a high degree of collective leadership, and such strong willingness to work and move together on a substantial agenda. We salute these efforts and, again, we want to support them. We want a meaningful decision in Dublin on Helsinki+40. Such decision must point at the way ahead for the organisation; it must

give clear and substantive orientations and taskings, to consolidate the *acquis* of 40 years of co-operation, and start a process leading to a more effective and efficient OSCE. It should preserve the autonomy of OSCE institutions and intensify the OSCE's interaction with civil society as well as academia. It must give a clear mandate and framework for the incoming CiOs and FSC Chairmanships to lead our work with the contribution of the autonomous OSCE institutions. We believe that Helsinki+40 process will help the OSCE to regain political momentum and emerge stronger at the end. Building trust by fully meeting all our commitments is a *sine qua non* for building a comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security community, where the threat or the use of force in the OSCE area is unthinkable.

As you know, the European Union has always been a strong supporter of Mongolia's accession to the OSCE. We hope that the consensus will be maintained on the issue, and that we will be able to welcome Mongolia in our midst very soon.

Mr Chairperson,

As noted earlier, one of the main values of this organisation is that it is built on the recognition that security is comprehensive and has various components. This multi-dimensional concept of comprehensive security is essential for us. We need to progress in all dimensions of the OSCE work in order for this organisation to stay relevant in the changing world.

The Chairmanship has followed an approach that is even-handed and pragmatic. We have no doubt that some of us would love to see more here and there, as indeed we have made clear by tabling our own additional proposal in the third dimension. The Chairmanship has proposed a package that has its own balance and coherence, and that must be preserved. The European Union wishes to see a meaningful outcome reflected by progress in and across all dimensions during the Dublin Ministerial.

In the first dimension, we give full support to the package the Chairmanship has proposed. We strongly support the on-going work on trans-national threats. We hope that it will be possible to reach consensus on the remaining one of the four decisions of the TNT package on the OSCE framework on the fight against terrorism. This decision should be adopted by the PC before we go to Dublin. Then, a 'chapeau' decision in Dublin should conclude a fruitful process of focusing and harnessing the

capacity of the OSCE. We consider that, combined with the new TNT department, this will help the organisation to be more visible and efficient in this field.

We also strongly support the adoption of a decision on confidence-building measures for cyber space. This is an area of recognised OSCE added value, at which the European Union welcomes the opportunity to support contributions of its Member States.

We are also supportive of the initiatives tabled by the Chairmanship of the FSC in the politico-military field. We remain engaged in the discussions in order to further improve the substance and clarify the language as regards the draft decision on 'Issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation'. We also welcome the draft decision on 'Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition' and will continue to work on improving it.

In the second dimension, participating States have spent a lot of time this year discussing good governance, transparency and anti-corruption. We attach considerable importance to these issues and strongly hope that a comprehensive decision or declaration, which reflects the cross-dimensional nature of the subject, will be adopted in Dublin.

Last but not least, the third dimension.

Clear progress in the human dimension is indispensable if we are to advance towards a genuine security community.

As stated many times, we deeply regret that no decision could be adopted in Vilnius in the human dimension. At the core of this organisation lies a concept of comprehensive security that is crucial for our region, which has been confirmed again in Astana. We will work very closely with the Chairmanship in an attempt to achieve consensus in Dublin on the two draft decisions it has proposed. Strengthening freedom of expression in the media, including digital media, and enhancing the safety of journalists, remain the highest priorities for the EU. We look forward to a reaffirmation that our commitment to fundamental freedoms applies on-line as much as in traditional media. We will continue to actively seek a robust decision meeting these objectives. The EU welcomes the US initiative to introduce a draft declaration on Fundamental freedoms in the digital age.

We have proposed a draft decision on the freedom of peaceful assembly and association in the OSCE area. We have done so in response to continuing violations of these fundamental freedoms, and we are convinced this organisation must do more to uphold these rights. We call on all our partners to engage constructively in substantive discussions on this draft and to consider co-sponsoring it.

Finally, we support the development of an OSCE-wide action plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

The European Union is engaged in good faith and constructive spirit on all the drafts that have been tabled by other participating States, and we call on our partners to display a similar level of engagement. We will focus on matters of substance and we will want to consider at all times how the various draft decisions can add value to our existing commitments. We encourage all participating States to identify areas of common ground to the fullest possible extent.

This, Mr Chairperson, brings to the conclusion of our statement. We once again congratulate you and your colleagues for working tirelessly for our common interests. We wish you full success in Dublin.

Thank you.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\* and Iceland+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro 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.