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Déclaration

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**Joint Session of the Forum for Security Co-operation and
Permanent Council no. 38**
**EU Statement in response to the address by the Deputy Minister of
Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Alexander Grushko**

The EU welcomes Deputy Minister Grushko at the joint FSC/PC meeting and thanks him for his presentation. In response to it, the EU would like to specify its general views and approach on how to further shape the debate on European security.

The European Union recalls the positive spirit of the debate at the Ministerial luncheon in Helsinki as well as the eight points made by the then Chairman-in-Office Minister Stubb when summarizing the content of this ministerial debate. We have fully endorsed them. We were guided by these conclusions when setting out our approach.

The EU wishes to emphasize its openness to consider any new ideas that may contribute to the enhancement of European security in a transparent process which includes contributions from states and relevant international organisations. The EU believes that a productive follow up on the Helsinki debate should be based on our shared values and agreed OSCE principles and commitments.

Due to its inclusiveness and its comprehensive approach to security the EU believes the OSCE is the natural forum in which to pursue the debate

on European security. Ever since the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act the OSCE has proven itself to be the irreplaceable forum for security and confidence-building dialogue in all its aspects.

The EU is of the opinion that as a priority, the debate on European security in the OSCE should focus on restoring mutual confidence and trust, allowing all participating states to address their legitimate security concerns. Providing impetus to the resolution of protracted conflicts through determined efforts is also important to this end.

It is equally important that work continues to revitalise the CFE regime bringing it back into full operation. We should strive for full implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 and the Open Skies Treaty. The EU calls upon all parties concerned to preserve and fully implement the existing acquis of arms control agreements and CSBMs, as well as to explore options for its further strengthening.

The EU remains committed to the concept of cooperative, indivisible and cross-dimensional security, which is based on a comprehensive set of agreed principles and commitments. Strict adherence to these principles and implementation of these commitments are crucial for the sustainability of cooperative security.

For the EU reaffirmation of participating States' commitment to the principles outlined in the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter should be the basis for any debate aimed at strengthening European security. We will also be guided by our own European Security Strategy. In today's European security landscape all three dimensions of the OSCE equally

contribute to the maintenance of peace, stability and security and none of them should be prioritized.

The EU considers that the comprehensive security architecture as developed over years based on existing organisations, shared commitments and principles should not be undermined. The EU remains open to consider ways and means to strengthen them.

The security of the European continent is inextricably linked with that of North America and the discussion among the 56 OSCE participating States is one of its abiding strengths. The promotion of a common space of security and stability from Vancouver to Vladivostok requires our combined and continuous efforts in order to respond effectively to present and emerging security challenges.

By way of conclusion, the European Union wishes to stress that based on the approach just outlined, it will contribute positively and substantively to a transparent debate, open to all participating states, on European security. In this regard the EU once again thanks the Greek Chairmanship for its readiness to assist and facilitate a debate on this topic within the OSCE framework.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and MONTENEGRO, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, as well as UKRAINE and the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.