



EUROPEAN UNION

63rd Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation and the Permanent Council Vienna, 19 October 2016

EU statement on Revisiting the 1996 OSCE Framework for Arms Control

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the distinguished guests, Ambassador Francisco Seixas da Costa, and Ambassador Susanne Baumann, to this joint FSC/PC meeting. We thank our speakers for their stimulating presentations. We commend the German Chairmanship and the Portuguese FSC Chair for this useful opportunity to discuss and assess the commitments pertaining to Conventional Arms Control and Confidence and Security-Building Measures in the OSCE area by revisiting the 1996 Lisbon Framework.

We appreciate the opportunity to commemorate this inspiring document, which we highly value, and recall the commitments we have signed up to 20 years ago. Today, we are reminded of the goals and principles set out in the Lisbon Framework, based on the fundamental principles of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. The Lisbon Framework for Arms Control confirms the commitments of OSCE participating States to both fully implement and further develop Arms Control agreements in order to build confidence and trust in the OSCE area. Furthermore, it describes the interlocking web of mutually reinforcing obligations and commitments supporting security in Europe to the benefit of all participating States in the spirit of co-operative security.

Though the Framework remains a valid and important commitment of all of us, which has to be fully implemented, we have to acknowledge the current security context. With the European security order being challenged and fundamental principles of international law and the OSCE violated by one participating State, a realistic but forward looking approach is needed, in order to restore trust and confidence and to revitalise Conventional Arms Control and CSBM regimes.

We are committed to strengthen the Vienna Document in order to increase military stability, transparency and predictability. We are confident that this would improve long-term security for all participating States. Furthermore we stand ready to further modernise Conventional Arms Control and thereby strengthen the web as mentioned in the Lisbon Framework. To this end, we welcome the impetus given by the initiative of the Chairperson in Office, Foreign Minister Steinmeier, to re-launch a structured dialogue on Conventional Arms Control, and the US initiative to engage in a structured dialogue on security challenges. Re-invigorating the dialogue on conventional arms control and confidence and security building measures could be an important step towards enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area. Such dialogue should build upon existing principles and commitments and complement ongoing efforts on full implementation and updating of existing instruments.

The OSCE offers a unique and an inclusive platform for such a dialogue, and there have already been many opportunities to exchange views on these important topics throughout this year, not least during the HLMDs in February or the Security Days event two weeks ago, as well as during the numerous informal meetings on the Vienna Document modernisation and FSC Security Dialogues. We will continue to engage actively and constructively in these discussions and encourage others to take a similar approach.

Dialogue alone will not solve the current impasse. European security requires respect for international law and fundamental principles of our organisation and overcoming the current crisis will depend on this. It is however our shared responsibility to explore all opportunities to regain mutual trust and understanding. In this spirit, we call for full implementation of agreed commitments, the need to strengthen the Vienna Document and the willingness to participate in the current dialogue and discussions to further modernise Conventional Arms Control.

We support the efforts of the FSC and PC Chairs to carry discussions forward on Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs, including by a declaration at the Ministerial Council.

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 ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of

the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

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