



EUROPEAN UNION

58th OSCE Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council Vienna, 27 November 2014

EU Statement on the Fight against Transnational Threats in the Mediterranean Region

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the Secretary of State for Security of Spain, H.E. Francisco Martínez Vázquez to the 58th Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council.

Today's Joint Meeting of FSC and PC is yet another valuable demonstration of the commitment to enhancing cooperation with our Mediterranean Partners.

We would like to thank the Secretary of State and the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco in Austria, H.E. Ali El Mhamdi for sharing their comprehensive and interesting views on transnational threats and their relevance in the Mediterranean Region.

We welcome the information provided by the Secretary of State about the close cooperation with Partners, especially on the close co-operation with the government of Morocco. We have followed with interest his views regarding the importance of the issue of migration in the Mediterranean region, the need to address the root causes of migration and the relevance of concrete cooperation in countries of origin and transit. We also recall the fight against smugglers and traffickers in human beings.

As a regional organisation, the OSCE plays an important role in countering transnational threats on the basis of its comprehensive concept of security and in full respect of OSCE commitments. The OSCE works to strengthen cooperation among, and capacities of its participating States, Partners and other relevant organisations. OSCE participating States are committed to implement all

measures addressing transnational threats, in full accordance with their commitments in the field of democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, as well as their obligations under international law. Adherence to relevant universal anti-criminal instruments is of crucial importance in this regard. We therefore encourage all participating States and Partners for Cooperation to become parties to these instruments.

Mr Secretary of State, we share your views about the importance of the threat that ISIL/Da'esh and Foreign Terrorist Fighters represent for the Mediterranean region and beyond.

We welcome Morocco's active engagement in the work of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum, in particular through the initiative to co-chair, together with the Netherlands, the new working group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters whose inauguration will take place in Marrakech on 15-16 December this year.

We believe that there is a need to further recognise the interdependency between the OSCE area and the Mediterranean as a whole, as stated in the Helsinki Final Act. We welcome the attention to security challenges in the Mediterranean region and remain committed to pursuing and strengthening cooperation with our Mediterranean neighbours, including through the OSCE, wherever the Organisation can be of relevance and added value with its comprehensive approach to security. Enhancing co-operation against transnational threats contributes to stability and peace in the whole Euro-Mediterranean region and improves the security of our citizens.

It is important to reiterate on this occasion the EU's continued support for strengthened implementation of OSCE commitments in the area of SALW, Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) and conventional weapons. The risks stemming from illicit trafficking of SALW and ammunition have reached a new dimension, particularly due to events such as those experienced in Northern Africa and the Middle East. In this regard, we look forward to Ambassador Kobieracki's presentation on the OSCE mission to Tunisia on Co-operation on SALW, Border Security and Counter-Terrorism.

The European Union continues allocating substantial resources, within its Strategy on SALW, to support concrete activities aimed at enhancing the SALW

control in the OSCE area. In this regard, we welcome and promote international cooperation with the UN, the OSCE and other main actors. We also see merit in further developing the cooperation with our Mediterranean partners to combat illicit trafficking and destabilising accumulation of SALW and conventional ammunition.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the Secretary of State for his visit and we thank him and the Moroccan Ambassador for their interesting and valuable presentations.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate 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.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania 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.