



PC.DEL/612/12
27 June 2012

ENGLISH only

EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Annual Security Review Conference Vienna, 26 – 28 June 2012 Working Session II

EU statement on early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation: lessons learned and way ahead, 27 June

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank H.E. Heli Kanerva, H.E. Eric Rubin and Prof. Alexander Nikitin for their thought-provoking presentations, which provide a good basis for today's discussion.

We would like to reiterate that strengthening OSCE capabilities in addressing the conflict cycle, as well as achieving tangible progress in the resolution of existing conflicts and the prevention of emerging conflicts, remains a priority for the EU.

The Vilnius Ministerial Council decision on elements of the conflict cycle was an important step forward in our efforts to enhance the Organisation's ability to prevent and respond to conflicts and crisis in the OSCE area. We welcome the focus of the Irish Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat on its implementation and support the work already undertaken on the basis of this decision. We would once again like to underline the need to fully implement the decision and appreciated the opportunity to exchange views on this subject in the Open-ended Working Group on the Conflict Cycle. We look forward to the report of the Secretary General on 16 July 2012.

We will set out our detailed views on the way ahead in the light of that report. We will continue to seek ways to strengthen the OSCE's conflict cycle toolbox,

including its analytical, early warning, operational and mediation tools, and to consolidate the Organisation's role in post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction. These efforts need to be undertaken across all three dimensions and involve the OSCE autonomous institutions and executive structures including the field operations. We will also continue to use activities in the Economic and Environmental Dimension to promote confidence and security.

In addition let us highlight some additional issues:

The OSCE should enhance cooperation and coordination of its activities in addressing crises and conflicts with other relevant international organisations. We have already drawn the attention of delegations to concrete areas where co-operation should be strengthened such as the use of mediation expertise and of equipment. Cooperation with regard to conflicts and crises is only one element in OSCE's relationship with other organizations and we look forward to the comprehensive report on cooperation with international organizations commissioned by the Chairmanship.

We appreciate on-going efforts with regard to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 but these efforts should be consolidated with the aim of developing an OSCE-wide Action Plan. While a comprehensive approach is needed, duplication of efforts within the OSCE should be avoided.

Finally, we would like to emphasize that measures to improve OSCE capabilities with regard to the conflict cycle in themselves are insufficient. The political will of participating States remains essential for timely and effective OSCE action in this field.

Mr. Chairperson,

The resolution of the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area, notably those in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, is a top

priority of the EU. We strongly support the efforts of the Chairmanship to promote lasting settlements.

The EU welcomed the successful resumption of official 5+2 talks on the settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict, notably thanks to the efforts of the Lithuanian and Irish OSCE Chairmanships. We appeal to all the participants in the "5+2" to advance discussion on the substance of the settlement, based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and we support the Irish Chairmanship efforts to this end. The European Union will continue to play its full role in the achievement of a political settlement of the conflict and will look into a more appropriate way of supporting its implementation on the ground once such a settlement is found.

The European Union takes this opportunity to reiterate its full support for the Minsk Group Co-Chairmen in the search for a negotiated political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which it considers vital for the future of the region. The EU expresses deep concern about recent security incidents which resulted in the loss of several lives. We support the Minsk Group Co-Chairs initiatives to strengthen the implementation of the ceasefire, including the establishment of an investigative mechanism, to improve the atmosphere "on the ground", and to promote understanding among people in the region.

We reiterate our firm support for the Geneva discussions and for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We express our concern about the continuing Russian military and security-related presence and infrastructure reinforcements in the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We reiterate our position on the urgent need for a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia, in particular for the benefit of the civilian population, including a robust monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary lines. We also stress the importance for the unhindered functioning of the IPRMs.

We will continue to promote and support confidence building measures to assist the resolution of these conflicts, in coordination with the OSCE.

In conclusion, we would once again like to thank the key-note speakers. We look forward to a fruitful discussion today.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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