



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on the "Nordic Battlegroup"

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to thank the Lithuanian FSC Chairmanship for organising today's Security Dialogue on the "Nordic Battlegroup". We would also like to welcome and thank Brigadier General Stefan Andersson from the Swedish Armed Forces for addressing this interesting topic today.

This presentation is a valuable contribution to enhancing transparency in the OSCE region. This includes flagging the possibility for non-EU Member States to actively participate in EU Battlegroups. It also reminds us of the evolving politico-military landscape in Europe and the need to ensure that multilateral instruments, and in particular the process of substantial modernisation of the Vienna Document, keep pace with and remain relevant to such developments.

We note with appreciation that the Nordic Battlegroup, under the lead of Sweden, has become an important and regular contributor to the implementation of the Battlegroups concept under the EU Common Security and Defence Policy. This is strengthening the EU's capabilities, which is key as the EU increasingly becomes a competent international actor through its civilian and military CSDP missions.

The EU Battlegroups provide the EU with a specific rapid reaction tool, enabling it to respond rapidly to emerging crises with military means. The Battlegroups contribute to increasing interoperability and political cohesion among Member States, and remain a vehicle for the transformation of the Member States' armed forces. Efforts continue

to improve the Battlegroups' cost effectiveness through pooling and sharing solutions, especially in logistics.

The EU Council reiterated in its Conclusions of 19 November 2012 its call to retain and further develop military capabilities for sustaining and enhancing the CSDP. They underpin the EU's ability to act as a security provider, in the context of a wider comprehensive approach.

To conclude, we would like to once again thank Brigadier General Stefan Andersson for his presentation.

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 candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA 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 EFTA and the European Economic Area.