



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 751 Vienna, 2 April 2014

#### EU Statement on "Montenegro Demilitarisation Programme - MONDEM"

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The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes H.E. Prof. Milica Pejanovic-Djurisic, Minister of Defence of Montenegro, back to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank her for her availability to discuss with us the progress made by Montenegro in curbing risks related to the destabilising accumulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Conventional Ammunition. We are grateful also to Ambassador Janina Hrebickova, Head of OSCE Mission to Montenegro, and Mr Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP Resident Co-ordinator for their presentations on the current state of play of the Montenegro Demilitarisation Programme (MONDEM).

The EU highly appreciates the steadfast commitment of the government of Montenegro and the substantial results achieved in reducing the risks related to the accumulation of large amounts of obsolete ammunition, explosive devices and weapons. We welcome the successful completion on 30 September 2013 of phase III1 of the MONDEM programme within which 247 tonnes of unstable ammunition were destroyed. We note the launching of the Programme's phase III2 on 24 March 2014, as well as the ongoing reconstruction of the storage site "Brezovik".

We are also pleased to note that MONDEM continues to greatly affirm the practical partnership of the Government of Montenegro, the OSCE and UNDP. In this context, we welcome once again the OSCE's prominent role in providing assistance to participating States in the destruction of SALW and conventional ammunition and in improving stockpile management and security practices. The MONDEM Programme carried out in cooperation with UNDP, is a successful example of these OSCE added-value activities, which have been financially supported by the EU and many EU Member States.

Indeed, in the framework of the 2005 EU Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the

EU has carried out several activities in the Western Balkans, in particular through the implementation of the EU Council Decisions 2010/179/CFSP and 2013/730/CFSP, in support of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW (SEESAC).

In this context, we consider MC Decision 8/13 adopted in Kyiv to be very good basis for upholding the OSCE activities aimed at reducing the risks related to the illicit spread and destabilising accumulation of SALW and CA and are ready to contribute to that end. In particular, the EU remains fully committed to the implementation of both the OSCE Plan of Action as well as the UN Programme of Action on SALW on a national, regional and global basis.

We are aware of the requirement for further support of the MONDEM Programme for successful continuation of planned activities and urge the OSCE Mission to Montenegro to maintain its support to MONDEM and other defence sector reform activities of Montenegro.

In conclusion, we would like to thank once again Minister Pejanovic-Djurisic and wish her every success in her important professional endeavours.

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 NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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\* 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.