



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°872 Vienna, 20 December 2017

EU Statement in response to closing remarks by the Chairperson of the FSC

1. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank you, Madame Chairperson, and your team, for the successful work and leadership as FSC Chair in the past four months. Last week we spoke about the Ministerial Council and commended the handling of that process in November and December, but we are equally appreciative of your choice of Security Dialogue topics and congratulate you on the successful conduct of our meetings.
2. In particular we appreciate your efforts in providing such high-level and authoritative speakers, which is testament to the investment of your Delegation and your country into the work of the Forum. We welcomed the opportunities to discuss the implementation of UNSCR 1325, combatting illicit SALW and SCA in Southeast Europe, the role of parliaments in the Democratic Control of Armed and Security Forces, the practical aspects of the implementation of CAC and CSBMs, and sub-regional arms control arrangements. In the short time available to us, we found this blend of topics not only fully appropriate to our work, but also rich in substance. Alongside other events of interest to the politico-military community, such as the Structured Dialogue, CSBM breakout workshops and review of SALW and SCA projects, we have been immersed in highly relevant, important and thought-provoking issues over this trimester. As a result, we will not be lacking in ideas or motivation for the FSC's work in 2018.
3. In that regard we reiterate our belief that full implementation, revitalisation and modernisation of the existing politico-military toolbox, including the Vienna Document, remain a priority task for the Organisation to ensure stability, transparency and predictability.

4. Madame Chairperson, this closing session takes place against the backdrop of the continued blatant violation of international law and basic OSCE principles by the Russian Federation following its illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol, and its destabilising actions in eastern Ukraine. We once again urge all sides to comply with the commitments they have signed up to, as a sustainable political solution to the crisis can only be reached through full implementation of the Minsk agreements.

5. In conclusion we look forward to working with the incoming Slovakian Chairmanship in the next trimester, which includes the AIAM, as well as to continued engagement in the framework of the IWG Structured Dialogue including the ongoing mapping process. We once again thank the delegation of the Russian Federation as it leaves the Troika and welcome Slovenia; we are confident that the new Troika team, ably supported by the CPC, will set the FSC off to a good start in 2018.

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 LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members 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.