



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1017 Vienna, 18 September 2014

EU Statement in Response to the Address by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, H.E. Miroslav Lajčák

It is a pleasure to warmly welcome Minister Lajčák to the OSCE Permanent Council. We very much appreciate that the Minister found time to address us this morning.

We thank the Minister for sharing his views on the crisis in and around Ukraine and the role of the OSCE. We will discuss this topic later this morning. The minister is of course very familiar with the EU's OSCE policy, including the value we attach to the organisation's comprehensive concept of security and body of commitments.

We would however like to take this opportunity to recognise that the OSCE plays an important role in Security Sector Governance and Reform, including in its field missions, and express our appreciation for Slovakia's engagement on this issue. Security Sector Governance and Reform is an essential part of conflict prevention and crisis management and a truly cross-dimensional topic. Building synergies, focusing on different actors' added value and avoiding duplication with other relevant actors would be advisable. As you know, the European Union itself is very active in the field of Security Sector Governance and Reform, the main objectives of which are in line with our core values: promotion and respect of rule of law, human rights, and democracy.

We believe that the OSCE has an important role to play in European security. However, the OSCE is facing many challenges, and the crisis in and around Ukraine reminds us that it will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Having said that, we need to continue to improve it and its method of work. We also have

to remain flexible to cope with the challenges of the day. We thank Minister Lajčák for his views and we wish him all the best for the future.

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 countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, 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.