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# Prohlášení

## Statement

## Déclaration

Vienna 20 May 2009

### Statement of the European Union in response to Mr. Alexandre Lambert's Presentation on the Technical Update of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct

Mr. Chairman,

The European Union welcomes Mr. Alexandre Lambert at today's FSC and is very grateful for his timely presentation on the technical update of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct – its improvements and perspectives.

The EU regards the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as a unique document of innovative character in the OSCE acquis, which contains common values such as principles of democratic political control of armed forces and other security forces, their political neutrality, accountability, transparency and integration with society. The strength of the Code of Conduct lies also in the wide spectrum of themes covered by the document, from inter-state relations to purely intra-state issues.

By adopting the decision on a technical update of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct (FSC.DEC/2/09) on 1 April 2009 participating States demonstrated their desire to improve implementation of the Code of Conduct and thereby strengthen the confidence and security building regime of the OSCE. With the new structure of the Questionnaire the EU

expects not only a quantitative but also a qualitative improvement of the annual information exchange.

The EU underlines that using the updated Questionnaire of the Code of Conduct will allow participating States to increase transparency by replying not only in a full and comprehensive manner but also in the spirit of the Code of Conduct.

However, the EU feels that other issues should also have been included; for instance the Questionnaire should have reflected the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/04, as well as Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/05 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation aiming also at enhancing the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

The EU attaches great importance to the full implementation of the Code of Conduct. Having adopted decisions on awareness raising and outreach as well as on the update of the Questionnaire, the EU recalls that FSC can be used to assess, review and improve if necessary the implementation of the Code of Conduct. The EU is therefore looking forward to the upcoming discussions on a regular assessment of the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

The EU also hopes that the recently published Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel will assist all participating States to take the steps required to enable members of the armed forces to exercise their rights more effectively.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Stálá mise České Republiky při OBSE

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the OSCE  
Mission Permanente de la République Tchèque  
auprès de l'OSCE

Penzingerstrasse 11-13

1140 Vienna, Austria

phone: (+43) 1 899 58 140 | Fax: (+43) 1 894 57 98

E-mail: OSCE.Mission.Vienna@embassy.mzv.cz

[www.eu2009.cz](http://www.eu2009.cz)

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Mr. Chairman,

The candidate countries Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this statement.

Thank you Mr. Chairman