



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 706 Vienna, 23 January 2013

EU Statement on the Assumption of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co- operation by Liechtenstein

The European Union (EU) and its Member States welcome Liechtenstein as the new Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We wish Lithuania every success as a new member of the FSC Troika and thank Latvia, which is leaving the Troika, for their efforts and commitment over the past year.

We are grateful to H.E. Ambassador Maria-Pia Kothbauer for setting out the FSC Chairmanship's plans which provide a good platform for moving forward the FSC's activities during the first trimester of 2013, including through the scheduled Security Dialogues.

We appreciate the excellent work done during the last trimester of 2012 by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as FSC Chair and would like to once again convey our sincere gratitude for the able and dedicated way in which it conducted the negotiations on the FSC-related draft decisions in the run up to and during the Ministerial Council in Dublin.

Throughout 2012 the EU has consistently expressed its support for further strengthening the full range of issues dealt with by the FSC. This was the basis on which the EU actively took part in the negotiations on Dublin Ministerial Council FSC draft decisions. However, despite all efforts undertaken it has not been possible to reach consensus. We invite those participating States most responsible for this failure to reflect carefully on their positions in 2013. We do not agree to a lowering of existing OSCE commitments in the politico-military field or watering down of their implementation.

We consider therefore the FSC commitments as agreed by consensus in Astana and Vilnius to be not just a valid basis for our work in 2013 but also in need of further progression. Against this background we would like to

state our readiness to actively contribute to their full implementation, further consolidation and enhancement.

In particular, we are ready to pursue both a pragmatic and forward looking approach in the process of modernisation of the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures with the aim of ensuring its continued relevance, and increasing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States; to engage in strengthening the OSCE activities and instruments in the field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition by improved implementation and increased coherence and complementarity with the UN framework; as well as to continue supporting the OSCE role for wider and more sustainable implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1540. It will also be necessary to improve the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on the Politico-Military Aspects of Security through its focused annual review and other measures such as the enhancement of its outreach.

We hope that the overall FSC activities throughout 2013 will be both ambitious and productive and will provide a tangible contribution to the implementation of Dublin MC Decision on the OSCE Helsinki + 40 Process.

In this context we welcome the tentative FSC Working Program in 2013.

We therefore look forward to actively and constructively cooperating with the FSC Chairmanship, the FSC Troika and the OSCE participating States with a view to achieve the aforementioned objectives.

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 NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO 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.