



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°928 Vienna, 23 October 2019

EU Statement on Vienna Document – Implementation/modernisation

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to thank the Chairmanship, as well as the coordinator and key-note speakers, for this useful opportunity to discuss and assess implementation and modernisation of the Vienna Document.

We regret that this Security Dialogue takes place against the background of the ongoing conflicts in the OSCE area. For the fifth consecutive year, Russia's acts of aggression against Ukraine and its annexation of Crimea continue to challenge European security and raise serious concerns. We recall the efforts in the N4 format to address these concerns. This reminds us of and underscores the crucial value of the Confidence and Security Building Measures enshrined in the Vienna Document. These need to be implemented fully and in good faith, and modernised, so that challenges to the current European security environment are better met by increased transparency and predictability.

OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative concept of security with emphasis on Conventional Arms Control, Confidence and Security Building Measures, disarmament and non-proliferation constitutes an important element of our common security. These fundamental and enduring commitments provide systemic and preventive means to enhance predictability and transparency. In doing so, they can contribute to reducing military risks and misperceptions, lead to a better understanding of threat perceptions and build trust among participating States.

Important agreements in this area, including the Vienna Document, the Treaty on Open Skies and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe have provided us with important security gains for many years. We support efforts to solve outstanding issues pertaining to compliance with and implementation of these instruments.

We remain committed to the full implementation in letter and spirit of existing commitments in the politico-military dimension and continue to support the substantial modernisation of the Vienna Document, as well as the further development of Conventional Arms Control, Confidence and Security Building Measures and other instruments in the politico-military toolbox. We stand ready to work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs in Europe.

We continue to believe that it is vital to modernise our OSCE politico-military toolbox, most notably the Vienna Document, in order to increase military stability, transparency and predictability. We are convinced that this would bring greater long-term security for all participating States.

At relevant OSCE meetings the EU and its Member States have been clear and consistent in calling for a substantial modernisation of the Vienna Document. We welcome proposals on various VD chapters aimed at strengthening its provisions and adapting it to the current security environment and in this context we see the proposed initiative as outlined by the German delegation as an opportunity to launch a constructive negotiation. We view this proposal in a positive light. It reflects common concerns about growing unpredictability and mistrust in the European security environment and the urgent need to reverse this trend. We understand that this proposal is intended to create positive momentum for modernisation of the Vienna Document and reflects the confidence we place in the OSCE as the key platform for mutual dialogue on security issues. We understand that this proposal will be a basis for negotiation and that all participating States will be able to work on it. We acknowledge that other VD modernisation proposals remain on the table and deserve consideration. Negotiation is a path to rebuild trust and confidence.

We urge all participating States to engage actively and constructively in these important discussions to increase military transparency and reduce risk by working with us to update the Vienna Document.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA* and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.