



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N° 1205
Vienna, 29 November 2018**

**EU Statement in response to the Report by the OSCE
Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission
on Military Pensioners**

The EU warmly welcomes for the first time to the Permanent Council the OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners Dr. Volker Frobarth.

We thank you for your first report indicating that only very few issues still are on the agenda.

We take note that from the time of the signing of the bilateral agreement on 30 April 1994 the number of eligible personnel has decreased from 22.320 to 7.061 as of 1 November 2018.

We agree with you that it is most encouraging that no more individual complaints of military pensioners have been made since 2008.

Still unresolved is the issue of the annual fixing of the Russian reimbursement for medical care expenses for military pensioners. No particular progress has been achieved in resolving this question in relation to which you indicate that the Representative only plays a marginal role. We trust that the two sides will work to find a mutually acceptable solution to this specific issue.

You indicate that there are no new fundamental issues concerning the work of the Representative but also that it is impossible to rule out individual complaints from military pensioners in the future which could warrant OSCE involvement. We share your conclusion that the function

of a Representative should continue to exist on a “stand by” basis acting only if requested, requiring only minor resources. In this regard we note that no changes are foreseen in the budget request for 2019 as compared to 2018, as you indicated to the ACMF this past October.

We wish you all the best in your newly assumed functions which we are confident you will discharge diligently on the strength of your professional background.

Thank you.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA 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.