



EUROPEAN UNION
OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°881
Vienna, 25 April 2018

EU Statement – Security dialogue: Confidence- and security-building measures and conventional arms control

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to thank the Slovenian Chairmanship, as well as the speakers, for this useful opportunity to discuss and assess Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Conventional Arms Control commitments and activities in the OSCE area. We reaffirm our unwavering support for fundamental OSCE principles. It is essential to rebuild trust and revitalize cooperative security in Europe and the work of the FSC and the Structured Dialogue provide opportunities for doing so.

Confidence and Security Building Measures and Conventional Arms Control are important pillars of our security community. We are discussing these at a time when the European security order, including principles of territorial integrity and inviolability of borders continue to be seriously challenged.

The OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative concept of security, with its emphasis on Confidence and Security Building Measures, Arms Control and disarmament constitute important elements of our common security. These fundamental and enduring commitments provide a systemic and preventative means to enhance predictability and transparency thus reducing military risks and misperceptions, leading to a better understanding of threat perceptions and building trust among participating States.

Important agreements in this area, including the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Open Skies Treaty, and the Vienna Document have provided us with important security gains for many years. Despite the current difficulties with aspects of these instruments, we support efforts to restore and safeguard a fully functioning, binding, sustainable and verifiable conventional arms control architecture, based on the norms and principles of indivisible and cooperative security. We remain committed to the full implementation of existing commitments in the politico-military area and continue to support a substantial update and

modernization 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 area.

We also emphasize the need to work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs. We will continue to engage in the SD as a mean of addressing the current and the future challenges and risks in the OSCE area. We thank Ambassador Huynen and his team for the thorough preparation of the upcoming expert workshop as a part of the IWG on SD. We look forward to sharing and discussing national analysis based on the data package as a practical step towards a greater understanding of the trends related to military forces, major equipment, expenditures, deployments and exercises.

We continue to believe that it is vital to modernise our OSCE politico-military toolbox, most notably the Vienna Document, but also the arms control architecture as a whole, in order to increase military stability, transparency and predictability. We are convinced that this would bring more long-term security for all participating States. We welcome proposals on various VD chapters aimed at strengthening the provisions of the VD adapting it to the current security environment, including Chapter III proposals on “Risk Reduction”. These are examples of efforts to dispel concerns and thereby strengthen confidence between OSCE participating States. We recall in this context the proposals made by EU Member States on both para 16 and 17 of Chapter III, which a vast majority of participating States argues would reduce risks and tensions, and the French Proposal, co-sponsored by all EU Member States, on lowering thresholds for prior notification of certain military activities. We emphasize the value of voluntary briefings on military exercises at the FSC, which serve as an additional CSBM. We encourage all pS to provide such briefings.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasise that lasting security requires genuine and continued commitment of all participating States to Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, to their full implementation, in letter and spirit, and their modernisation.

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