



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°890 Vienna, 5 September 2018

EU Statement in response to Mr. Jan Salestrand, State Secretary to the Minister for Defence of Sweden

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome Mr. Jan Salestrand, State Secretary to the Minister for Defence of Sweden, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank him for outlining the priorities of the Swedish FSC Chairmanship, and for presenting his country's views on the current security challenges in the OSCE area.

We would also like to use the opportunity to once again thank the Slovenian FSC Chairmanship for its able leadership during the second trimester of 2018.

Sweden assumes the FSC Chairmanship at a time when we continue to be confronted with a blatant violation of international law and basic OSCE principles by the Russian Federation following its illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol and destabilizing actions in eastern Ukraine. We once again urge all sides to comply with the commitments they have signed up to, as a sustainable political solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine can only be reached through full implementation of the Minsk agreements.

We would like to thank you, Mr. State Secretary, for presenting a balanced and comprehensive agenda of the Swedish FSC Chairmanship, which we fully support. You will be holding the Chairmanship in the challenging period ahead of the Ministerial Council and you can count on our active and constructive engagement to this end.

We reiterate our strong commitment to full implementation in letter and spirit of the existing commitments in the politico-military dimension, which is essential for enhancing military transparency and political stability in the OSCE area. We remain strong supporters of Vienna Document modernisation. We welcome

proposals on various Vienna Document chapters aimed at strengthening its provisions and adapting it to the current security environment, including Chapter III proposals on 'Risk Reduction'. These are examples of efforts to dispel concerns and hence strengthen confidence between OSCE participating States. We therefore highly value the continued attention you intend to pay to CSBMs and the Vienna Document and welcome your intention to carry on focused discussion of Vienna Document modernisation proposals at the Working Group A.

We also emphasise the need to work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. We value the Structured Dialogue as a means to address the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area, to foster a greater understanding on these issues that could serve as a common, solid basis for a way forward through an open, transparent and inclusive exchange of views carried out in good faith. We are ready to develop the Structured Dialogue further in accordance with the Hamburg Declaration. We appreciate the efforts and the leadership of the Chairman of the IWG, Ambassador Paul Huynen, to this end and we look forward to the joint FSC/PC meeting on the Structured Dialogue.

We attach great importance to enhancing peace and security in the OSCE area by reducing the threat posed by the illicit trafficking and excessive accumulation of SALW and conventional ammunition and fully support the OSCE's activities to this end. The adoption of the OSCE best practice guide on SALW deactivation earlier this year has been an important achievement. We highly value your intention to devote special attention to the topic of SALW in the context of the outcomes of the UN PoA RevCon3. We look forward to the 'Biennial meeting to assess the implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA' on 2-3 October, as well as to the upcoming security dialogue on countering illicit trafficking of SALW on 26 September. We will engage actively in these discussions and share the EU's most recent work in this area, including on the revision of the EU Strategy against illicit SALW and their ammunition as well as the EU's proposal to support the SALW road map for the Western Balkans that aims at bringing the issue under control by 2024.

We commend the FSC Chair for including many interesting and pertinent topics on the agenda. We look forward to the meeting focusing on regional cooperation

to increase transparency and confidence from the Nordic perspective. We equally appreciate your intention to focus on military doctrines, the Code of Conduct and non-proliferation in the context of the implementation of UNSCR 1540, as well as the fact that the Women, Peace and Security agenda features highly in your priorities. We are confident that the dialogue on the 18-year anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325 will generate an interesting discussion and enable to build further on the successful efforts of the Slovenian Chairmanship.

Madame Chairperson, we would like to use this opportunity to assure you of our support throughout your FSC Chairmanship. We look forward to working with you and wish you and your team every success.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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