

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

FSC.DEL/255/19
18 December 2019

ENGLISH only



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°936 Vienna, 18 December 2019

EU Statement - closing of the Session under Czech FSC Chair

The European Union and its Member States wish to take this opportunity to thank you, Ambassador Šrámek, and your able team for the successful Chairmanship of the FSC in the past trimester. Your leadership and tireless efforts led to the adoption of two commemorative declarations on the Code of Conduct and non-proliferation at the Ministerial Council in Bratislava and we thank you for this achievement. The Declarations send an important political signal that, when political will is in place, consensus can be achieved, despite differences among pS. We hope that we use this positive spirit to make progress in other important areas at the FSC next year.

Although we regret that it was not possible to reach consensus in Bratislava on the Draft Declaration on the Implementation and Modernisation of the Vienna Document, we wish to thank you for your efforts, including organising a specific FSC session on the Vienna Document. We also value the focused discussion of Vienna Document modernisation proposals at the FSC's Working Group A. We recall that 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. The modernisation of our OSCE politico-military toolbox, most notably the Vienna Document, is vital in order to increase military stability, transparency and

predictability. We urge all participating States to engage actively and constructively in these important discussions at the OSCE in 2020, taking due account of all VD modernisation proposals on the table, including the joint proposal supported by 33 participating States, and remind that this is an open and inclusive process without predetermined outcome.

At the same time, we want to recall the Ministerial commitment of all participating States in Hamburg 2016 to work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating arms control and Confidence and Security-Building Measures in Europe. We value the Structured Dialogue as a meaningful, state-owned and state-driven process for in-depth exchanges on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area and we continue to actively support it in 2020. We welcome the fact that you included a joint session of the FSC and the PC on the Structured Dialogue into the agenda.

We commend you, Mr. Chairperson, for your choice of topics for discussion, which enabled us to examine issues of high importance to pS, including EU MS. We have already mentioned the Vienna Document. We have equally enjoyed all other discussions, let us in particular highlight the session on women, peace and security, featuring prominent speakers with inspiring interventions. We equally appreciate not only the choice of speakers but also the gender balance of panels. A good practice we hope to see also in the future.

Mr. Chairperson, we wish to reiterate our longstanding concerns over Russia's acts of aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which represent a clear violation of international law and a major threat to European security and to the rules-based international order. We recall our unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, and call upon Russia to do likewise. We are encouraged by the constructive Normandy Four Summit talks, which took place after more than 3 years and made important progress toward a comprehensive ceasefire by the end of the year, the release of conflict-

related detainees, further disengagement, demining and other measures to improve the humanitarian situation. It is a positive signal that the next meeting in the Normandy format is planned to take place within four months to discuss the political and security conditions, inter alia for the organisation of the local elections. We hope that the recent diplomatic efforts within the Normandy Four and the Trilateral Contact Group will bring us forward on the path towards a peaceful and sustainable resolution of the conflict.

Finally, we look forward to the incoming Turkish FSC Chairmanship and we would like to use this opportunity to assure our Turkish colleagues of our support throughout their tenure.

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.