



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU statement in response to presentations on Contributions of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico- Military Aspects of Security to the Security Environment – past and today

The EU very much appreciates the FSC Chair's initiative for a discussion on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Code of Conduct) following on the roundtable discussion in 2010.

The EU welcomes Dr. Wolfgang Zellner and Dr. Alexandre Lambert back to the FSC as our guest-speakers. Your analysis and thought provoking presentations will be fundamental for our continued discussion on exploring ways in which to improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct. Furthermore, your special expertise will contribute to our exploration of the principles inherent in the Code.

The EU regards the Code of Conduct as a unique document, of innovative character, of the OSCE acquis. It is one of the OSCE documents that embodies the cross-dimensional and comprehensive approach of the OSCE to security, and it is an instrument that has no real counterpart in any other international organisation. The inherent

principles covering both inter-state and intra-state affairs, along with a commitment to combat the threat of terrorist activities, constitute a particular value. Equal and full compliance with these principles are of crucial importance and represent criteria for good governance and peaceful coexistence.

The Code of Conduct has played, and is continuing to play, a vital role in the consolidation of European security through promoting norms of responsible and co-operative behaviour in the field of security, including democratic security building within participating States. The EU considers the Code of Conduct as indispensable in providing for democratic control of the armed forces, paramilitary forces, internal security forces, intelligence services and the police.

The EU attaches great importance to the full implementation and promotion of the Code of Conduct. The EU supports the initiative of better assessment and review in order to improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct. In this regard, the EU reiterates its support for discussions on establishing periodic implementation assessment meetings.

The technical update of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct improved not only the quantity but also the quality of the annual information exchange. We believe the issue of gender constitutes an integral part of the Code of Conduct. Therefore we intend to expand the scope of our replies to the Questionnaire to include information on women, peace and security. Further to this, the EU looks forward to making progress on the adoption of a decision on the Reference Guide on the Questionnaire.

The EU hopes that today's and the following regular discussions on the principles inherent in the Code of Conduct will be forward-looking and will lead to tangible results. We are awaiting with great interest the upcoming discussions.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ARMENIA align themselves with this statement.

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

**Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.