

**STATEMENT BY  
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION OF  
THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 18 October 2010

Mr. Chairperson,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to speak to you on behalf of the European Union (EU) at the opening plenary session of the Vienna segment of the 2010 OSCE Review Conference on politico-military, economic and environmental aspects and the OSCE structures and activities.

I should like to congratulate the Kazakh Chairmanship for all its efforts at the head of our Organization. The EU is also very grateful for the excellent work of the Secretariat and the institutions on behalf of the participating States in preparing and assisting with this Review Conference.

Following the sessions held in Warsaw in early October, we must now continue to prepare for the Summit to take place in Astana on 1 and 2 December. We should make the best use of the sessions in Vienna in order to attain our goal of providing the Summit with a substantial agenda, comprising a clear reaffirmation of our commitments and specific mandates for our future work, set out in a plan of action. To this end, we should make full use of the work accomplished since the launching of the Corfu Process and the many proposals made over the past year.

I shall summarize in this context the EU's four main priorities:

- Strengthening the Organization's capacities within the three dimensions in order to promote early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, among other things, in connection with protracted conflicts;
- Strengthening the implementation and follow-up of OSCE norms, principles and commitments, in particular, human dimension commitments;

- Strengthening the framework for conventional arms control, including confidence- and security-building measures and progress on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe;
- Making more strategic use of the added value possessed by the OSCE with regard to transnational threats within the OSCE's three dimensions so as to develop a clearer and more visible profile in this respect.

I shall also recall the need to achieve specific breakthroughs in the resolution of protracted conflicts which, year after year, continue to seriously affect the credibility of our Organization and its capacity to tackle the security challenges arising in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian areas.

The human dimension was dealt with exhaustively during the Review Conference in Warsaw, where we noted that it remains vital to strengthen the implementation and follow-up of our commitments, an aspect that we shall have the opportunity to come back to in Astana. During the Vienna Conference we shall develop the other priorities mentioned just now. It will also provide an opportunity to elaborate on the EU's position with regard to the economic and environmental dimension. For us, the second dimension is an integral component of our priorities with respect to conflicts and transnational threats; it is also an integral component of the solution within the conflict cycle; and it is part of the problem as regards transnational threats.

Thus, we hope to attain the objectives that we set for the Corfu Process, namely:

- Re-establishing confidence and strengthening and modernizing the security space from Vancouver to Vladivostok;
- Preserving the comprehensive approach to security through the OSCE's three dimensions;
- Preserving the autonomy and integrity of the OSCE's institutions and ensuring that its executive structures can offer optimal assistance.

The EU will participate actively in this Conference and will not hesitate to clearly identify the areas in which progress still needs to be made and to suggest improvements.

In conclusion, the Summit should provide new stimulus and mobilize the necessary political will to resolve some of the deadlocks that have been obstructing the functioning of our Organization for so many years. The EU firmly believes that the Review Conference will help to restore an atmosphere of mutual understanding and confidence, offering us a real opportunity to evolve towards a future security community and to initiate a plan of action to that effect.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia<sup>1</sup>, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup> and Iceland<sup>2</sup>, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, and the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Andorra align themselves with this statement.

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1 Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area.