

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Annual Security Review Conference
Vienna, 23 – 25 June 2015**

EU Statement on Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation: lessons learned and the way ahead

The EU and its Member States deeply regret that with the ongoing crisis in and around Ukraine the OSCE region has become less secure.

The OSCE has in Ukraine demonstrated the value of its conflict-related tools and mechanisms and its comprehensive concept of security. Strengthening these capacities across the conflict cycle is key. The crisis in and around Ukraine, caused by Russia's violation of founding OSCE principles, has reminded us of the enduring relevance of the comprehensive concept of security. Politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects of security must be addressed in a comprehensive manner if we are to ensure sustainable peace and stability.

The Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine is playing a vital role in de-escalation and has shown a remarkable ability to adjust to new developments and new demands. We are deeply concerned that the mission continues to experience serious security incidents and face restrictions in its monitoring activities. We note that access remains fully or partly restricted in large swaths of separatist-controlled territory, and urge all parties to ensure safe, full and unhindered access for the SMM. We recall our support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine, and call upon Russia to do likewise. We reiterate our strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation and we will not recognise it.

We support the systematic implementation of MC Decision 3/11 on the Elements of the Conflict Cycle by the Secretariat, autonomous institutions and other executive structures. We particularly welcome the active efforts undertaken by the CPC to strengthen the OSCE's capacities in dialogue facilitation and mediation support. This includes strengthening the role of OSCE mediators and their engagement in mediation efforts in all

phases of the conflict cycle, while fully respecting existing mandates. We reiterate in this context the important role of the High Commissioner on National Minorities in preventing conflicts involving national minorities at the earliest possible stage, including through early warning and dialogue facilitation.

We agree there is a need to further close the gap between early warning and early action. We welcome the steps taken by the OSCE to strengthen cooperation with other relevant international organisations and we commend the Secretary General for his efforts.

We strongly believe that the added value and capacities of the OSCE field operations in addressing conflict situations should be further explored and enhanced. OSCE field operations are one of the organisation's greatest assets and most effective ways to support participating States with implementing their OSCE commitments. Therefore the EU deplores the decision of the Government of Azerbaijan to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding and requests Azerbaijan to reconsider it with the goal of enabling the Project Co-ordinator to continue their activities without interruption

Mme Chairperson, protracted conflicts in our region pose a very serious threat to the security of the entire OSCE area. The status quo is detrimental to security. The resolution of the existing conflicts in the OSCE area remain a top priority for the EU and our positions on these conflicts are well known. The EU supports the existing formats of negotiations and calls on all actors involved to demonstrate commitment to conflict settlement.

On the conflict in the Republic of **Moldova**, we fully support the '5+2' format and appeal to all participants in the '5+2' talks to address all three baskets in negotiations and advance discussions on the substance of the settlement, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The OSCE Mission must be allowed to implement its mandate and have full and unfettered access to the territory of the Republic of Moldova, including to the Transnistrian region.

We reiterate our firm support for the territorial integrity of Georgia and call on all parties to show commitment to the Geneva International Discussions and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms. The persistent challenges demonstrate the need for a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia. The EU reiterates its concern regarding the so-called "Treaty on Alliance and Strategic Partnership" signed

between the Russian Federation and the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which violates Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, contradicts OSCE commitments, principles of international law and international commitments of the Russian Federation. The EU calls on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and the implementing Measures of 8 September 2008, including by providing access of the EUMM to the breakaway regions.

We would like to reiterate our firm support to the Minsk Group co-Chairs in their enduring endeavours towards a negotiated and peaceful long-lasting resolution of the **Nagorno-Karabakh** conflict. We welcome the co-Chairs initiatives and efforts to propose to all parties additional measures aimed at strengthening implementation of the ceasefire, improving the atmosphere on the ground, and promoting understanding among people of the region.

The EU will continue to promote and support confidence building measures to assist the resolution of these conflicts, in co-operation with the OSCE and other relevant interlocutors.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA 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.

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