

## **Spanish Presidency of the European Union**

### **OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation No. 600 Vienna 20 January 2010**

### **EU Statement on the assumption of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation by Greece**

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The European Union would like to extend a very warm welcome to Greece as Chair of the Forum for Security Cooperation, as well as to Hungary as a new member of the FSC Troika.

On this occasion we express our sincere appreciation for the work done last year by the three Chairmanships of France, Georgia and the United Kingdom. In particular, we would like to thank the Delegation of the United Kingdom for their excellent job in the preparation and during the meetings of the Athens Ministerial Council.

We would also like to thank the Greek Minister Alternate of Defence, Mr. Panos Beglitis, for his presentation of the Program of the Greek FSC Chairmanship. We support the ideas that have been exposed, and look forward to working with the Chair and other Delegations in its implementation.

The entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon will strengthen the European Union's capacity as a global actor. It will thus also be

beneficial for the EU's contribution to the work of the OSCE and the co-operation between the EU and the OSCE.

This holds true also in view of the intense agenda that the Forum for Security Cooperation will have to deal with in the coming months.

The recent Ministerial Council has adopted an ambitious Decision on Issues Relevant to the FSC, calling on this Forum, in accordance with its Mandate, to carry out a number of relevant tasks, namely, intensifying the Security Dialogue to address key security issues, exploring ways to strengthen the OSCE's politico-military tool-box, including strengthening the Vienna Document 99, improving implementation of the Code of Conduct, facilitating the fulfilment of the provisions of several UNSC Resolutions concerning non-proliferation, and contribute to improving OSCE procedures and mechanisms in the area of crisis management.

Our Ministers have also tasked the FSC to further our work on Small Arms and Light Weapons, including the development of a Plan of Action by May 2010. We are grateful to the Delegations that have circulated proposals on this issue. The EU will continue to make its contribution to OSCE activities in this field that complement the EU's own relevant efforts.

The Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting, that will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd March, will once again offer an excellent opportunity to review the implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 and other FSC relevant Documents, and will contribute to the FSC's tasking to strengthen such instruments further.

The European Union stands ready to work in an open and constructive way to achieve progress in these relevant topics.

The FSC is called upon to bring its contribution to the work of the Corfu Process. The politico – military dimension will be significant to achieve overall progress in this endeavour. To this end, a close consultation of the Permanent Representatives and the FSC Chairmanships has been decided in the relevant MC decision both concerning the dialogue itself and the submission of an interim report.

In this regard, the EU also recalls that it has always advocated closer cooperation between the FSC and the Permanent Council and its bodies. The increased synergy among the OSCE and the FSC Chairmanships, as well as several Joint FSC-PC Meetings, are welcome developments that will help to fully realize the role of this Forum.

Since the launching of this Process, the European Union has been fully committed to working constructively with all Participating States to reach a substantive and well balanced outcome that strengthens comprehensive, inclusive and indivisible European security.

We stand at a crucial time for our organization. We must be ambitious. We need to maintain a strategic vision in order to move beyond zero sum approaches and be able to take concrete steps to restore trust and confidence between all Participating States.

The experience of the Greek Chairmanship of the OSCE, and the outstanding work made in 2009 in the context of the Corfu Process

constitute an excellent basis for our work this year. We are looking forward to working with you and with all Participating States to reach a meeting of minds on the key issues included in the mandate of the Forum, so as to allow the FSC to make a significant contribution to take the Process further.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\* and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, 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 ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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