



EUROPEAN UNION

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

EU Statement on Transnational Threats and Challenges

The EU and its Member States are convinced that the OSCE has developed an impressive framework with relevant decisions and documents to address transnational threats. We emphasise that the fight against transnational threats and challenges should be done in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, fully respecting OSCE commitments and principles, including those in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We believe that the OSCE activities in the area of TNTs should focus on the organisation's particular added value.

We fully support the primary role of the UN in preventing and countering terrorism. Considering the OSCE is a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, we welcome the close coordination between the two organisations in this area. We need to put more emphasis on the prevention of terrorism, in particular on countering radicalisation, recruitment, equipment and financing of terrorism, and addressing underlying factors that provide opportunities for terrorist groups to flourish. In this context, the EU reiterates its strong support for the declarations made at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel on foreign terrorist fighters and kidnapping for ransom, as well as relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, and calls on all countries to take the necessary measures to ensure their swift implementation with full respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Ever-growing concerns about the movements of foreign terrorist fighters, irregular migration, people trafficking and the smuggling of drugs and other commodities all highlight the critical role of effective border management in helping to counter these threats to our security. The OSCE can and should be offering practical assistance to participating and partner States to better tackle the difficulties they face at their borders, without unduly limiting legitimate cross-border movements. We therefore

believe that we should be enhancing the role and sustainability of the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe in order to help meet the increasing demand for border management assistance.

We note the work carried out by TNT Department to develop OSCE action in fighting illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors, in full coherence with the relevant PC Decision, and the efforts made to seek synergies and efficiencies with the work of other relevant international and regional organisations with appropriate mandates in this field.

We value OSCE activities in the field of police assistance and reform, especially when focusing on the community policing approach. Looking at Trafficking in Human Beings, let us not forget that Trafficking in Human Beings is a crime of exploitation that does not even necessarily require transnational movement - 1/3 of victims are trafficked within countries - or even any movement at all. Although different in their nature, Trafficking in Human Beings and smuggling of human beings remain two highly lucrative criminal activities perpetrated by organized criminal groups, some of them being active in both fields. As migration flows, in particular those coming from the south of the OSCE region, are likely to continue, criminal groups will also continue to exploit the vulnerability of migrants to perpetrate their criminal activities. We cannot ignore such a reality. We believe there may be a role for well-planned, focused OSCE activities closely coordinated with other relevant international actors.

We welcome the very good progress made in the implementation of the first set of confidence building measures to enhance cyber security. This is an important niche for the OSCE, as a regional organization well suited for building confidence. The OSCE Partners for Cooperation and other regional organisations can benefit from the OSCE experience, having as an ultimate goal a reduction in the risk of tension and conflict. We stand ready to contribute to advancing both implementation of the first set of cyber confidence building measures and negotiations on a second set at the OSCE. We reiterate our wish to see the second set of OSCE cyber CBMs adopted this year.

We reaffirm that the OSCE can play an important role in helping relevant authorities in capacity and institution building, including through its field presences. This should

remain a clear priority for action in the future. While doing so, we deem it extremely important to strongly coordinate with other relevant major stakeholders. Identifying the niches for the OSCE is a key challenge, and this task is primarily the responsibility of the TNT Coordinator and the three heads of unit in his Department. We also insist on the necessity for the TNT Department's units to follow a realistic approach when considering any new project, in particular when they require extra-budgetary funding. Times of limited resources require good co-ordination and wise planning.

Mr Chairperson,

The OSCE has a valuable contribution to make in the fight against transnational threats. We look forward to continuing our joint work to improve the OSCE's effectiveness in tackling transnational and emerging threats and challenges.

The Candidate Countries TURKEY, 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 countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, SAN MARINO and MONACO 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.