



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°829 Vienna, 21 September 2016

EU Statement on "Changes in the role of the military forces – practical and military doctrinal implications"

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome Colonel François-Marie Gougeon, Head of Department for Strategic Defence, Ministry of Defence of France, and Brigadier General Philipp Eder, Director of the Military Strategy Division, Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports of Austria, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank them for their excellent presentations. We commend the FSC Chairmanship for putting this follow-up discussion to the successful High-Level Military Doctrines Seminar (HLMDS) held in February on the FSC agenda.

The HLMDS as well as the speakers today reminded us of the multifaceted security challenges the OSCE area is facing. Key elements of the European security order, including the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states, the inviolability of borders and the peaceful settlement of disputes, have been violated. Threats of terrorism and regional conflicts, hybrid warfare, the increasing importance of cyberspace, unprecedented refugee flows, as well as lack of democratic governance, are only a few examples of the current security challenges that put peace and stability in the OSCE area at risk.

Key challenges to peace and stability continue to underscore the need also for the EU to adapt and increase its capacities as a security provider. None of our countries can address current security threats alone and challenges to our security need a comprehensive response. To guide the EU's global actions in future the EU and its Member States developed under the guidance of the High Representative/Vice-President for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy the Global Strategy 'Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe'. Partnerships, promoting a rules-based global order, greater coherence between external and internal policies, as well as an integrated approach to conflicts and crisis are at the heart of the Strategy. Its

implementation in specific policy areas, including security and defence, will be a key task for the EU and its Member States in coming months, in order to translate the Strategy into action.

We all face common security threats and live in a complex world which requires multidimensional responses. The OSCE with its comprehensive approach to security is well placed to serve as a platform for dialogue, based on the need to respect international law and fundamental principles of the OSCE. We have listened with interest to the presentations of the distinguished speakers on how the role of the military is changing and how military forces are adapting to the new security environment. This useful exchange reminded us once again of the need to reflect technological developments and innovations in military sphere in the OSCE politico-military toolbox. The Vienna Document reissuance this year is an excellent opportunity to bring the Document in line with the realities of today's security needs in order to make sure that it continues to serve its purpose of greater transparency and confidence building between participating States. Progress in this endeavour will depend on the readiness of all participating States to engage in genuine dialogue, based on good faith and political will. We urge all partners around the table to seize this opportunity. We are convinced that a substantially modernized Vienna Document would result in more transparency, ensure greater predictability and thus help rebuild mutual trust and confidence to the benefit of all OSCE participating States.

Madame Chair, we thank once again the speakers for sharing experience of their countries, as well as for providing us with useful insights and analysis of the current security situation in the OSCE area, and for the opportunity to exchange views on this important topic. We would encourage the continuation of such discussions in this Forum.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, and NORWAY, members of the European Economic

Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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