

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

### **OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N° 608 Vienna 21 April 2010**

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

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The European Union warmly welcomes Hungary as the Chair of the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), as well as Ireland as the new member of the Troika. We would like to thank Greece for her excellent work as Chair and the United Kingdom, as it leaves the Troika.

We also thank Mr József Bali, State Secretary for Defence Policy of the Hungarian Ministry of Defence, for his comprehensive presentation on the work plan for the Hungarian Chairmanship of the FSC. We support this Programme and are ready to work constructively with the Chair and other Delegations to achieve our common goals.

Hungary assumes the Chair of this Forum at an important time. In the coming months some Athens Ministerial Council commitments will reach significant milestones, on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), as well as on the Corfu Process; we will also strive to achieve concrete results that strengthen Vienna Document 1999.

One of the immediate priorities for the EU will be the adoption of a Plan of Action on SALW, as mandated by Ministerial Council Decision 15/09.

This Document will be one of the key components of OSCE's contribution to the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects.

The EU encourages all participating States to work constructively to reach agreement on the Draft Decision on the OSCE Plan of Action, The EU attaches particular importance to improving the implementation of existing measures, strengthening OSCE commitments in the fields of brokering controls, marking and tracing, promoting destruction as the preferred method of disposal of SALW, as well as the gender aspects of SALW issues.

Yet, we would also like to underline that this Plan of Action is not the end of the road, but a point of departure for more ambitious and focused activity by the OSCE in this area. We are ready to work with other Delegations to implement this text in order to make it a basis for effective action.

The Corfu Process will also reach an important phase in the coming months. The European Union is taking an active role in the discussions, and proposals by EU Member States have been introduced in all three dimensions. Though national contributions, they reflect a shared EU perception, and common aims.

We are looking forward to the Corfu Meeting on April 27th on the role of Arms Control and Confidence and Security Building Measures in building trust in the evolving security environment. We believe we can build upon our unique network of treaties, commitments, decisions, norms and

measures. The EU will play a positive role in this, as in other areas, of the Corfu Process.

The joint FSC-PC meeting to study the Interim Report will be a benchmark for the future of the process. We hope that an ambitious Report will enable us to decide on a solid programme for the second half of the year and beyond.

Another key event in our calendar will be the Annual Security Review Conference. The FSC should contribute substantively to an in depth discussion on the politico-military aspects of security.

The EU strongly supports progress on strengthening Vienna Document 1999, including the proposals put forward by Denmark and the United Kingdom. We very much hope to reach consensus on these proposals soon. Agreement would open the way for substantive discussions on areas of shared interest. We hope to achieve concrete results as soon as possible.

The European Union considers that these areas are mutually reinforcing. We stand ready to work with the Chair and other Delegations to take advantage of the current international momentum and to make constructive contributions to our common tasks.

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.