

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation No. 605**Spanish Presidency of the European Union****Vienna 24 February 2010****EU Statement on the Roundtable on the Principles
inherent in the Code of Conduct**

The European Union very much appreciates the FSC Chair's initiative for a Round Table discussion on the OSCE Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security.

We also would like to warmly welcome Dr. Wolfgang Zellner and Dr. Andrei V. Zagorski as well as Mr. David Law as our guest-speakers. Your analysis and thought provoking presentations will be fundamental for our continued discussion on exploring ways in which to improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct. Furthermore, your special expertise will contribute to our discussions in the FSC on the principles inherent in the Code.

The EU regards the Code of Conduct as a unique document of innovative character of the OSCE acquis. It is one of the OSCE documents which embodies the cross-dimensional and comprehensive approach of the OSCE to security.

The Code of Conduct has played and is continuing to play a vital role in the consolidation of the European security through promoting

the norms of responsible and co-operative behaviour in the field of security, including democratic security building within the states

The value of the Code of Conduct lies also in the wide spectrum of principles covering inter-state and intra-state affairs. Each one of these principles is of crucial importance. We also acknowledge the Code's provisions related to the fight against terrorism.

In addition, the EU underscores the role of the Code of Conduct governing international relations and regulations concerning armed forces. It regards the Code of Conduct as indispensable in providing for democratic control of the armed forces, paramilitary forces, internal security forces, intelligence services and the police.

We would like to highlight that every OSCE participating State has agreed to act in conformity with the principle of democratic control of the armed forces and ensure that they operate under democratic control and in accordance with legal requirements. In this context the EU emphasises that paragraph 25 of the Code of Conduct stipulates that "Participating States will not tolerate or support forces that are not accountable to or controlled by their constitutionally established authorities". In parallel, respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms should be given due recognition in the management and recruitment of armed forces personnel.

The EU attaches great importance to full implementation of the Code of Conduct. Having adopted decisions on awareness raising and outreach as well as on the update of the Questionnaire, the EU supports the idea of better assessment and review in order to improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

The EU also hopes that the today's start of the discussion on the principles inherent in the Code of Conduct will lead to tangible results. The EU and its members are ready to participate actively in the discussion. We are looking forward with great interest to the upcoming discussions on improving the implementation of the Code of Conduct and on the discussion on the principles inherent in the Code.

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

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