



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **EU Statement on "The Role of CSBMs in Central Asia" FSC 919<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting**

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The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to thank the Tajik Chairmanship for this useful opportunity to discuss Confidence and Security-Building Measures in Asia and the key-note speakers for their presentations.

In this context we underline the important role of the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, in advancing peace and security in Europe. The OSCE, as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation, has over the years led to a number of key commitments being adopted across all three dimensions, including fundamental politico-military agreements notably the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty, the Open Skies Treaty, the Vienna Document, and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

The full implementation in letter and spirit and further development of the OSCE politico-military toolbox by all participating States is crucial for increasing military security and stability in the OSCE region. Substantial modernisation of the VD is more necessary than ever. There are a number of concrete proposals to modernise the Vienna Document which have already gained significant support amongst OSCE participating States. These updates could reduce military risk, and increase military transparency and predictability. We also recall the Ministerial commitment of all participating States at Hamburg in 2016 to work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating conventional arms control and CSBMs in Europe.

Sharing of expertise on the implementation of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures lie at the heart of CICA and OSCEs activities, and are an area where

the OSCE has developed significant expertise and can share some valuable lessons.

In the context of experience sharing, we would like to draw the attention of this Forum to the newly adopted EU-Central Asia Strategy which is an expression of the importance the EU attaches to the region. The aim of the Strategy is to achieve greater resilience and prosperity through partnership and regional cooperation. We look forward to presenting the Strategy in greater detail at the next week's FSC when EU SR Burian will address this Forum.

The Candidate Countries the REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country ICELAND, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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