



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

### **OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 743 Vienna, 29 January 2014**

#### **EU Statement on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security**

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The Member States of the European Union wish to thank the FSC Chairmanship Malta for placing high on its agenda the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security including its relevance to Partners for Cooperation, in particular in the Mediterranean region. We take this occasion to welcome and thank the key-note speakers for their valuable contributions on the subject of democratic control and parliamentary oversight over armed and security forces.

The Code fulfils an important role as a set of commitments and principles for inter-state and intra-state behaviour, which are imperative for governing the role of armed forces in democratic societies. In particular, it sets out principles for the democratic control of armed forces, civilian and parliamentary oversight and the rights of armed service personnel as well as the need to respect international humanitarian law. We therefore attach great importance to these matters and lend our full support to their implementation in the OSCE area, and beyond.

Hence we believe that a fruitful discussion with our Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation on the principles of the Code is needed and consider this security dialogue as a good opportunity for further increasing awareness and outreach on this important security sector governance document. In this context, we particularly appreciate the seminar held last September in Malta as an important milestone in the promotion of the Code of Conduct in the Mediterranean region. We wish to take this occasion to express our gratitude to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies in Malta for sharing its informative conference report.

Following the excellent seminar organised in Malta, we look forward to the outcomes of the OSCE-wide Workshop on the Code of Conduct to be held in Belgrade this March.

We are also grateful to the OSCE Secretariat for its active involvement in the promotion of the Code, especially for sharing its Arabic version with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

In conclusion, we wish to emphasise our approach to this July's annual discussion, which should not only serve to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Code but also to undertake a thorough evaluation of its effectiveness and relevance in the light of the contemporary security environment. We look forward to taking forward the conclusions of the annual discussion with a view to enhancing the Code and its implementation.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND\*\* and SERBIA, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

\*\* Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.