



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1340

Vienna, 21 October 2021

EU Statement in response to the report by Helmut Napiontek, OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

1. The EU warmly welcomes the newly re-appointed OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners, Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) Helmut Napiontek, back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his report.
2. We take note that from the time of the signing of the bilateral agreement on 30 April 1994 the number of eligible personnel has decreased from 22,320 to 5,464 as of 1 October 2021, 530 less than one year ago.
3. We welcome that, as in previous years, no individual complaints by military pensioners have been made.
4. We take note of your evaluation that the annual fixing of the Russian reimbursement for medical care expenses for military pensioners does not seem to present a particular problem for the two sides at the moment. However, we regret that no real progress has been achieved in resolving this issue, where, according to your observation, the Representative plays only a marginal role.
5. We recall your assessment that there have been no new fundamental issues concerning the work of the Representative and that both sides appear to assess the current situation as stable. Therefore, we share your conclusion that the function of a Representative should continue to exist on a “stand by” basis, acting only if requested, and requiring only minor resources, as reflected in the 2022

budget proposal that remains the same as last year.

6. In conclusion, we thank you for your engagement over the past year, despite the COVID-19-related constraints, and we wish you a positive continuation of your functions.

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 LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, GEORGIA and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA align themselves with this statement.

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