



EUROPEAN UNION
OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°892
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EU Statement on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: Democratic Control of Armed Forces

The Member States of the European Union warmly welcome the distinguished speakers to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank them for their interesting presentations.

We are grateful to the Swedish FSC Chairmanship for including two discussions on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security on the FSC indicative schedule. We appreciate today's Security Dialogue focusing on the 'Democratic Control of Armed Forces and we also look forward to the scheduled 24 October Security Dialogue addressing the Code of Conduct with regard to 'Defence Personnel Policy, Training and Education from an Individual Rights' Perspective'.

We remain strong supporters of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and attach great importance to the full implementation of its norms and principles, including those related to human rights and fundamental freedoms. The democratic control of armed and security forces, protection of the human rights of armed forces personnel and adherence to the norms of International Humanitarian Law, are all key elements in creating a framework in which armed and security forces operate.

The European Union has an extensive policy framework on topics related to today's security dialogue. In 2011 a comprehensive study into 'Parliamentary Oversight of Security and Intelligence Agencies in the EU' was published. In 2013, assisted by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, the European Parliament produced a brochure entitled "Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector". In the EU's strategic framework to support security sector reform, published jointly by the European Commission and High

Representative in July 2016 and endorsed by the Council in November 2016, it is asserted that the security sector must be subject to effective democratic control and oversight. Furthermore it should operate within a clear and unambiguous legal framework approved by the national legislator, including effective civilian control. Its budget should be an integral part of the national budget and be discussed and approved by the legislature, which must be able to exercise effective oversight. Hence, we believe there is a strong role for Parliaments in the control of their armed and security forces, as implied within Sections VII and VIII of the Code of Conduct.

We welcome the continuous engagement of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in supporting and promoting better implementation, awareness-raising, further dissemination and outreach of the Code of Conduct, its norms, principles and its agreed instruments.

We will continue to support the efforts of the FSC Chair, the Conflict Prevention Centre and the FSC Co-ordinator on the Code of Conduct to address issues related to improving deficiencies in implementing and reporting on the Code of Conduct as well as outreach activities in accordance with Decision 1/08 in promoting the principles and norms stipulated in the Code of Conduct outside the OSCE area, such as those held in Washington (2017) and Bucharest (2018).

Madame Chairperson, we would like to reiterate our support for voluntary reporting of additional information within the annual information exchange on the Code of Conduct on issues related to women, peace and security, as well as on private and military security companies, and encourage all participating States to consider providing such additional information on a voluntary basis. We appreciate the discussion on PMSCs which was organised ahead of this year's Annual Conference addressing the issue of their status and the need for a normative framework also in the context of the Annual Information Exchange.

The EU is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, values that are directly linked with the democratic control of armed and security forces and the OSCE's Code of Conduct. We thank our speakers from Sweden, Ukraine and Belarus for sharing their national experience in the area of the democratic control of armed forces and the role of parliamentary oversight and we look forward to hearing the views

of other Delegations on the role of Parliaments. We hope that today's security dialogue helps reinforce the value and importance of the Code of Conduct in contributing to our mutual, cooperative security, especially at a time when we prepare to celebrate its 25th anniversary next year.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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