



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 769 Vienna, 5 November 2014

EU Statement on the 2014 OSCE Mediterranean Conference

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to thank Ambassador Gunaajav Batjargal, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the OSCE, for sharing his views on the outcome of the 2014 OSCE Mediterranean Conference held in Neum on 27 – 28 October. We would also like to note with appreciation the excellent organisation and preparation of this event by the host country Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the Swiss Chairmanship, the Serbian Chair of the Contact Group for Mediterranean Partners and the Secretariat. Today's Security Dialogue is yet another demonstration of the commitment to enhancing cooperation with our Partners from the Mediterranean region the FSC Chairmanships have shown throughout the year.

We are pleased with the quality of the discussions at the conference on important topics such as "Illicit trafficking in SALW and Fight against terrorism in the Mediterranean region" and in particular their focus on the need for global approach and coordination, harmonisation of legislation and exchange of good practices.

It is important to reiterate on this occasion the EU's continued support for strengthened implementation of OSCE commitments in the area of SALW, Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) and conventional weapons, especially having in mind that the risks stemming from illicit trafficking of SALW and ammunition have reached a new dimension, particularly due to events such as these recently experienced in Northern Africa and the Middle East.

This is why the European Union continues allocating substantial resources, within its Strategy on SALW, to support concrete activities aimed at enhancing the SALW control in the OSCE area where we welcome and promote international cooperation

with the UN, the OSCE and other main actors. Against this background, we see merit in further developing the cooperation with our Mediterranean partners to combat illicit trafficking and destabilising accumulation of SALW and conventional ammunition.

Furthermore, we reiterate that international terrorism poses a significant threat to peace and security, in particular by the terrorist organisation operating under the name ISIL. The European Union strongly condemns the brutal and abhorrent indiscriminate killings and human rights violations perpetrated by ISIL and other terrorist organisations which represent a threat to regional security as well as to the security of the OSCE region.

Therefore, the fight against international terrorism remains one of our highest priorities. We underline our continued support for the OSCE's role in contributing to the global fight against terrorism and are of the opinion that with its cross-dimensional approach the OSCE offers a unique capability to support not only participating States, but also Partners for Co-operation. It is the practical work, which enables us all to make progress in our efforts to tackle challenges arising from terrorism in all its forms.

In conclusion, we would like to remind that the European Union is committed to pursuing and strengthening cooperation with our Mediterranean neighbours, including through the OSCE, wherever the Organisation can be of assistance with its comprehensive approach to security.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND** SERBIA and ALBANIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, 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.

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