



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°921 Vienna, 17 July 2019

EU Statement in response to the CSTO

The European Union and its Member States thank the speakers for their presentations and the Tajikistan FSC Chairmanship for drawing the attention of the Forum to the work of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in countering current security challenges.

We see our interaction today in the context of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, and the 1999 Platform for Co-operative security which rests on the underlying premise that security of each state is inseparably linked to that of all others and therefore that co-operation is beneficial to all states.

We are today reminded of the basic principles of co-operative security in Europe proclaimed in the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1999 Charter for European Security and other OSCE documents. This includes the inherent right of each participating State to be free to decide upon its security arrangements and the commitment of each participating State to respect the rights of all others in this regard, as well as the commitment on the non-use of force or the threat of force and peaceful resolution of disputes as set out in the UN Charter. Co-operative security can only be pursued if states fully comply with the commitments they have signed up to and make sure that our common values become a reality. In this context, we underscore the relevance of the OSCE for engaging within its existing formats to discuss challenges to our common security, as they concern all 57 participating States.

Throughout the three meetings that the FSC Chairmanship has dedicated to the topic of synergies between the regional organizations and the OSCE, the importance of partnerships and cooperation has been a common denominator pointed out by the distinguished speakers of the regional organizations. In the new Strategy for Central Asia, the EU recognises the strategic importance of Central Asia for regional and global security and stability, and its important role to promote Euro-Asian connectivity. The EU Strategy underlines the importance of enhancing cooperation on migration and mobility, in particular in the framework of Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (EPCAs), as well as the need to strengthen dialogue with Central Asian states and to encourage continued cooperation against common security challenges, as well as on crisis management, security sector governance and reform and border management, including Afghanistan.

As stated in the Strategy, cooperation with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including at the local level, will be key. The EU will promote adherence to and implementation of the principles and commitments of the OSCE. We are open for interaction and cooperation with all actors and players for as long as they share these principles and respect the international rules-based order. Well-known ongoing acts of aggression and violations of international law and core OSCE principles and commitments challenge the European security environment and are of great concern to us.

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 led over the years to a number of key commitments across all three dimensions, including fundamental politico-military agreements notably the Vienna Document 2011, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Treaty on Open Skies and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. Their full implementation in good faith is crucial for increasing military security and stability in the OSCE region. At the same time, given the evolving security environment and technological developments in the military sphere, we again underline the need to update and modernise our existing politico-military commitments. We will continue to support all efforts to this end and encourage others to the same approach. Political will is key in this context.

Finally, we thank the Chair for providing us with the opportunities to exchange views on this topic.

The Candidate Countries the REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN, members 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 and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.