



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No 1159 Vienna, 5 October 2017

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#### EU Statement in response to the Report by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre

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The European Union and its Member States would like to welcome Ambassador Marcel Pesko back to the Permanent Council and thank him for his report on the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre. We regret the late publication of this report which did not allow us to give it proper consideration. Thus, our statement reflects only our initial thinking.

Conflict prevention and response to emerging crises lies at the very heart of OSCE activities. As the OSCE plays a central normative role for European security and is the inclusive platform for dialogue and confidence building, it is important that the Organisation has the ability and tools to prevent and respond to crises and conflicts. We should do all we can to ensure that its conflict prevention and resolution capacities are sufficiently equipped to deal with the challenges we currently face in the OSCE region. We look forward to discussing the proposals of Ambassador Pesko in the ACMF.

The EU reiterates that full implementation of MC Decision 3/11 on the Elements of the Conflict Cycle is a prerequisite for strengthening the capabilities of the OSCE in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation, mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation across the three dimensions. We welcome the work undertaken by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), the autonomous institutions and field operations in close co-operation with other international actors to implement MC Decision 3/11. We stress again that the CPC, field missions and autonomous institutions must be provided with sufficient resources to carry out their respective mandates. Strengthening

of Conflict cycle should be given continued attention. We welcome the initiative of the CPC to follow up last year's series of round tables. We welcome the organization of a Seminar on Conflict Cycle together with the Austrian Chairmanship later this month. The EU is ready to actively participate in the work.

The presence in the field is one of the key elements of the operational work of the OSCE. We continue to support strong and flexible mandates of the OSCE field missions. The OSCE field missions, particularly those in South Eastern and Eastern Europe, play an important role in early warning and in addressing heightened tensions and conflicts. We should make full use of the Missions' expertise in the work of the whole Organization. Their work with and across host countries and with civil society is of tremendous importance and complements the work of other international actors.

As regards the Central Asian States we would like to highlight in particular the work of the Border Management Staff College and the OSCE Academy which should be made sustainable. We welcome the CPC's efforts to develop new ways of operating in the South Caucasus and would see the value of a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence also in Armenia, Azerbaijan and throughout Georgia. We continue to stress that the OSCE Mission in the Republic of Moldova must have full and unrestricted access to the entire territory of the country, including the Transdniestrian region.

We also acknowledge the intention to strengthen the CPC's early warning capacities, ensuring that the Chairmanship and the Secretary General make informed decisions and effectively respond to political and security developments.

We appreciate the role the CPC is playing in early warning and early response, for example through the Situation Room, the network of focal points and conflict analysis and reporting and the role of the Mediation Support Unit

and its close co-operation and exchange with the UN, the EU and other counterparts.

The crisis in and around Ukraine has shown that the OSCE's early warning, rapid reaction, crisis management and dialogue facilitation are important in enabling our Organisation to play an important role in conflict resolution. In this context we highly appreciate the significant contributions of the CPC in organizing and supporting OSCE engagement in Ukraine in an impartial, flexible and professional manner. We recall again that the SMM must have full, safe and unhindered access throughout Ukraine, including to the Ukraine-Russia state border in order to fulfil its mandate and recall that this mandate covers the entire territory of Ukraine, including the Crimean peninsula.

We are well aware of the challenges facing the SMM in carrying out its mandate and we will continue to strongly support the Mission. We welcome the support provided to the SMM by the CPC in implementing their response plan following the tragic incident of 23 April. We also commend the CPC for its support to the TCG and Observer Mission at the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints.

We continue to believe that the full potential of the OSCE should be used in the current situation, including the PCU and the autonomous institutions in their respective areas. We encourage the CPC to do all it can to maintain cooperation, flow of information, and synergies between OSCE structures, as well as – where appropriate - between OSCE and other international actors active in Ukraine.

The resolution of the protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova, in Georgia, and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains a priority for the EU. We regard this as a core task of the OSCE and we support the contribution of the CPC. The EU reiterates its strong support for the already existing negotiation formats. Intensified efforts to resolve existing protracted conflicts are needed. These issues must stay high on the OSCE's agenda.

We would like to recall the importance for the OSCE and participating States to continue implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, including by mainstreaming gender throughout the whole of the conflict cycle. As we heard on Tuesday, at the Joint Meeting of the HDC and the Security Committee, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related Resolutions are as important as ever today and we call for their implementation in the OSCE's work on the conflict cycle. In this regard, we continue to call for the adoption of an OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The EU remains committed to improving the representation of women in decision-making roles at all levels in conflict resolution and peace processes. In this context let us again thank the Austrian Chairmanship for organizing the Second Gender Equality Review Conference this June, which allowed for a comprehensive review of this issue and identified a continued need to work on it, as well as for mainstreaming gender across other relevant activities, for example the SSG/R conference and the ASRC.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to once again thank the CPC and its Director for their valuable work. We continue to fully support the work done by the CPC and wish Ambassador Pesko and his dedicated staff every success in their future work.

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