



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1003 Vienna, 5 June 2014

Statement in Response to the Address by Professor Christian Tomuschat, President of the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration

On behalf of those Member States of the European Union who have ratified or acceded to the 1992 Stockholm Convention we would like to thank the President of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for coming to the Permanent Council and for his spirited address. We congratulate you on your election to your new post as President of the Court.

We welcome your introduction on the functioning of the Court, particularly your comments on the possibilities offered by the Court to contribute to settling disputes by peaceful and diplomatic means in a sustainable and effective manner.

Although the services of the Court have never been used, it could be a potentially useful instrument of preventative diplomacy. Its mechanisms of conciliation and arbitration allow for either flexible or clear cut outcomes; and it could provide long-term sustainable solutions to gnawing problems.

In light of the turbulent times we live in, we must not forget what tools we have. We welcome the fact that 33 OSCE Participating States have acceded to or ratified the Stockholm Convention. However, signature and ratification by more states of the Stockholm Convention might contribute to the use of this instrument.

We took note of your description of the Court's limitations and of the areas where the Court could be useful. Nevertheless, we are interested to hear concrete

proposals from you on how to integrate the Court more fully into the activities of the OSCE.

We thank you again for your address. We wish you every success in your new post. Like you, Mr. President, we hope that one day the Court can contribute to the noble objectives of the OSCE in maintaining and promoting peace and security, democracy and human rights in Europe.

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

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