



**EUROPEAN UNION**

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**EU statement in response to the Report by Ambassador  
Pesko, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre**

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The European Union and its Member States would like to welcome H.E. Ambassador Marcel Pesko back to the Permanent Council and thank him for his report on the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre.

Mr. Chairperson, Conflict prevention lies in the very heart of the OSCE's activities. Full implementation of MC Decision 3/11 on the Elements of the Conflict Cycle is a prerequisite for strengthening the role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation across the three dimensions.

We fully support the CiO's efforts to strengthen the OSCE's conflict cycle toolbox. We thank the CPC for taking an active part in this process. Many of the structural challenges mentioned in today's report (e.g. key points page 3/4) were addressed during the recent roundtables and the Ambassadorial retreat. Now we need to take concrete follow-up actions. It is important that the OSCE has the ability and tools to prevent and respond to crises and conflicts for example through dialogue facilitation and mediation support. 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 support the Chair in its ambition to try and reach consensus on a new text building on MC Decision 3/11 to equip the OSCE with the tools and resources required to effectively address current security issues related to the conflict cycle. We stress again that the CPC, field missions and autonomous institutions must be provided with sufficient resources to carry out their mandates. In this context, we stand ready to consider the proposal on the establishment of a Conflict Prevention Fund or Facility.

We highly appreciate the significant contributions of the CPC in organising and supporting OSCE engagement in Ukraine in an impartial, flexible and professional manner. In particular, we commend the CPC's role in setting up and supporting the Special Monitoring Mission. Any proposed increase in resources for the CPC will need to be properly addressed.

We are well aware of the challenges for the SMM in carrying out its mandate and we will continue to strongly support the mission, including by providing qualified staff, appropriate equipment and sufficient financial resources in a timely manner. We look forward to discussing these issues in the ACMF. We also commend the CPC for its support to the OSCE 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, uninterrupted flow of information, and synergies between the different OSCE structures working in Ukraine, as well as – where appropriate - between OSCE and other international actors active in Ukraine.

Mr. Chair, we welcome the work undertaken by the Conflict Prevention Centre, the autonomous institutions and field missions in close co-operation with other international actors to implement MC Decision 3/11. We note that many key efforts are only possible due to the strong and flexible mandates of the autonomous institutions. These need to be preserved. We applaud the ODIHR, the RFoM and the HCNM for their continued engagement across the conflict cycle.

The EU continues to strongly support the indispensable work done by the CPC and hope that efforts made to enhance internal cooperation, produce internal guidelines and identify synergies in collaboration with other parts of the executive structures will bear fruit in the coming years. The EU cherishes its good cooperation with the CPC on a number of important issues. Strengthening the role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation should be given continued attention. In this respect, we would like to stress that prevention is better than cure: investing in the prevention of the outbreak or recurrence of conflict can save lives and preserve livelihoods.

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 co-chairs of Minsk Group, the Geneva Discussions, and the negotiations within the 5+2 format. Intensified efforts to resolve existing protracted conflicts are needed.

We support the contribution of the CPC and we encourage them and the relevant field missions to continue the promotion of confidence building measures and projects which contribute to facilitate dialogue and fostering understanding between all sides. This should include increased co-operation with civil society organisations in the conflict regions in order to map potential ways for promoting understanding and rebuilding trust and confidence.

We also strongly believe that the OSCE field missions could play a greater role in early warning and in addressing conflict situations, therefore we stress that their mandates should be preserved. We continue to see the value of a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence in, among others, Azerbaijan and throughout Georgia.

We are pleased that a network of early warning focal points has been established and we welcome efforts to train field mission staff in conflict analysis, mediation skills and dialogue facilitation. We also welcome the increasing attention being paid to supporting the important work of the five field missions in Central Asia. In this regard, we would like to reiterate our high appreciation for the valuable work of both the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. We also welcome the co-operation between the CPC and the TNT department in areas such as border management and policing. We remain convinced that the OSCE's role on the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and UNSC Resolution 1540 on Non-Proliferation should be further enhanced on a sustainable basis. We attach great importance to the full implementation and the enhancement of existing OSCE politico-military commitments, including the Vienna Document and appreciate the assistance provided by the FSC Support Section in that regard. We are also ready to strengthen, in line with our consistent position, OSCE instruments and capacities in curbing the illicit spread and destabilising accumulation of SALW.

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\*, 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.