



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, Vienna, 24-26 June 2014

EU Statement on Transnational Threats and Challenges

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The EU and its Member States welcomed four major decisions on fighting transnational threats adopted by the OSCE in 2012, as well as last year's decision on an initial set of confidence building measures on cyber security. These decisions, together with the 2005 OSCE Border Management Concept, provide the OSCE with a sound and comprehensive basis for the Organisation's work on fighting transnational threats.

Hence, our focus remains to continue to “translate political commitments agreed by the participating States into effective and sustainable programmatic action”, as put in MC Decision 4/12. In this context, we see merit in deepening our dialogue with the TNT coordinator, in particular regarding the set of recommendations listed in the report by the OSCE Secretary General on the implementation of this specific decision.

We welcome that the TNT Department, despite severe challenges caused by longstanding personnel vacancies, achieved a greater focus on and practical implementation of coordination among executive structures, and with OSCE Field Missions, whilst bearing in mind and respecting their respective mandates. We support its efforts to deepen strategic partnerships with other relevant international organisations (such as UNODC), regional organisations, academic institutions, civil society and the private sector, as well as its efforts to strengthen cooperation with OSCE Partners for Cooperation.

Mr Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

We emphasise that the fight against transnational threats and challenges should be done in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, fully respecting OSCE commitments and principles, including those in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We believe that OSCE's activities in the area of TNTs have a particular added value and often unique features in projects and programmes, which make use of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and its specific expertise and capacities.

We reaffirm that the OSCE can play an important role in helping the relevant authorities in capacity and institution building. This should remain a clear priority of action in the future. While doing so, we deem extremely important to strongly coordinate with other major stakeholders. Identifying the niches for the OSCE is a key challenge, and this task is primarily the responsibility of the TNT coordinator and the three heads of unit. We also insist on the necessity for the TNT Department's units to follow a realistic approach when considering any new project, in particular when they require extra-budgetary funding.

We reiterate our support for the work of the OSCE and its field presences. We value their activities in the field of police assistance and reform, especially when focusing on the community policing approach.

The OSCE has shown that it can undertake pioneering work in the field of confidence building measures to enhance cyber security. We are proud that the OSCE – genuinely fit for building confidence - is the first regional organisation that adopted such measures in a field in which there are many important challenges. The cooperation among the OSCE participating States can be a model for OSCE Partners for Cooperation and other regional organisations. By exchanging information, showing transparency and cooperating to decrease the risk of tension or conflict, participating States bring a contribution to peace and security. Both - implementation of cyber CBMs and plans to advance them - are important.

We fully support the UN's main role, and, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the role of the OSCE in the prevention of and fight against terrorism and we welcome the close coordination of the two organisations in this area. Times of limited resources require good co-ordination and wise planning. The comparative advantage of the OSCE's anti-terrorism profile lies in the Organisation's comprehensive approach to security, and in its framework for multi-stakeholder dialogue, including civil society, media and the private sector. The guideline for engagement should focus on the respect of human rights and the rule of law in countering and preventing terrorism. We consider the fight against Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT) a very good example of the OSCE's cross-dimensional approach.

Border management, which counters all TNTs, including illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, is another area where the OSCE can offer comparative advantages through its integrated approach, which aims to facilitate beneficial cross-border cooperation whilst strengthening and modernising security. We have a unique institution in the form of the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe that offers training to border officials from all participating States and Partners for Cooperation thereby helping to build bridges between different systems. However, its core strength lies in its focus on Central Asian borders and we believe that, as a future strategy for the college is elaborated, we should not abandon this emphasis.

Mr Chairperson,

The OSCE has a valuable contribution to make in the fight against transnational threats. We look forward to carrying on our joint work to improve the OSCE's effectiveness in tackling transnational and emerging threats and challenges, including those stemming from the Central Asian region, and in particular from Afghanistan.

The Candidate Countries TURKEY, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ 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, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, ANDORRA, MONACO and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

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