



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 769 Vienna, 5 November 2014

#### EU Statement on Article IV Agreement

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The European Union and its Member States would like to warmly welcome Major General Michele Torres back to the FSC, in his capacity as Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords and thank him for the presentation, in particular on the status, the role and the tasks of the OSCE Guest Observers who will participate in implementation of the inspection activities since the beginning of 2015.

We note with satisfaction that under General Torres's mandate the second phase of the ownership process has been successfully fulfilled, thus paving the way for the full transfer of ownership to the State Parties at the Basel Ministerial Council, as agreed during the last Dayton Article IV Review Conference in July this year. In this context, we support the idea to mark the completion of the Agreement's ownership process by a Ministerial Council Declaration as suggested by the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office.

As already stated earlier this year, we are of the opinion that this important achievement is the outcome of the consistent efforts and unwavering political will of the State Parties, ably assisted by the CIO Personal Representative, to re-build security in the aftermath of a terrible war. Upholding and building politico-military transparency and trust were, and are essential prerequisites for achieving long term peace and stability.

We continue to strongly believe that this important sub-regional arms control regime remains not only a cornerstone of the security in Southeast Europe but also a positive model to be emulated in other sub-regions in the Euro-Atlantic area. The need for military transparency and trust based on the full use of appropriate

multilateral instruments is, unfortunately, once again exemplified by the on-going crisis in and around Ukraine.

We encourage the State Parties to continue making best use of the Article IV Agreement after the termination of the role and the functions of the Personal Representative with the support of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, within available resources of the OSCE, as well as the advice, if requested, of the contact group countries.

In conclusion, we would like to express once again our sincere gratitude to General Torres and his team for their excellent work and tangible contribution to security and stability in Southeast Europe.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA<sup>\*</sup>, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND<sup>\*\*</sup>, SERBIA and ALBANIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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<sup>\*</sup> The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.