

Prohlášení

Statement

Déclaration

Vienna 21 January 2009

Forum for Security Co-operation No. 568

Statement by the European Union on the Assumption of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation by France 21 January 2009

The European Union would like to extend a very warm welcome to France as new Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation and wishes it all the best in this challenging duty. We also welcome Georgia as a new member of the FSC Troika. The EU supports the ambitious plans set by the FSC chairmanships in 2009 in the Tentative Working Programme, which provides an excellent framework for the achievement of our common goals.

The European Union expresses its appreciation for the work done last year under the FSC Chairmanships of Spain, Estonia and, in particular, Finland that gave very effective leadership during the FSC preparations for the Ministerial Council in Helsinki. We are well aware of the scale of the task facing Finland, which assumed the responsibility for both the Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Chairmanship of the FSC during the last months of 2008.

The EU looks forward to effective and successful FSC work in 2009 during the Greek Chairmanship of the OSCE.

We would like to thank Mr. Michel Miraillet for his comprehensive Opening Statement and welcome the presented Tentative Work Programme 2009.

The EU considers the FSC agreed Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs), particularly the Vienna Document 1999, the documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, as a basic precondition for strengthening of mutual trust among Participating States. The EU calls on all Participating States to ensure full implementation of these CSBMs and to support the improvement of implementation of the acquis, where appropriate.

The EU values the vital role of the Security Dialogue within the FSC in addressing conflict situations and threats to our security in the OSCE area and calls upon Participating States to engage actively and constructively in this dialogue.

We would like to use this opportunity to stress the EU support for closer co-operation with the Permanent Council and its bodies. This co-operation will contribute to further strengthening the role of the FSC within the OSCE as an active and valuable contributor to international security.

The FSC's considerable experience should be applied to cross-dimensional security issues. In this context the EU encourages all the Participating States to work actively on the FSC contribution to the 7th Annual Security Review Conference.

The EU welcomes the intention of the French FSC Chairmanship to invite the Head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia for the joint meeting of the Forum and the Permanent Council on 11 February, which will give us the opportunity to learn lessons for future OSCE monitoring activities in Georgia including the cooperation with the EUMM.

In the politico-military dimension other notable meetings are to be held during the upcoming months. The 19th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting is the major opportunity in 2009 to assess the implementation of the Vienna document 1999 and other FSC relevant documents, and to look for ways in which their implementation can be improved. The EU also welcomes the organization of the first Workshop on a Comprehensive OSCE Approach to Enhancing Cyber Security, which could contribute to addressing and discussing new threats to our security.

The implementation of the FSC decisions, as endorsed by the 16th Ministerial Council, namely the Decision on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the Decision on Issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, are important in giving shape to FSC activities in 2009.

The EU particularly welcomes the Ministerial Council task for FSC to organize an OSCE meeting on SALW to review the OSCE Document on SALW and its supplementary decisions with a view to explore possible further actions.

The EU supports the continuation of OSCE project activities based on existing OSCE documents and focuses in particular on the destruction, management and security of stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition.

The EU pays considerable attention to the implementation of OSCE projects on disposal of rocket fuel in the OSCE area, particularly in Ukraine. We encourage Participating States to be actively involved in the successful implementation of this important project. In this connection we highly value the work done by the Conflict Prevention Centre.

The EU welcomes and fully supports the initiative on updating the Questionnaire of the Code of Conduct. We call on all Participating States to do their utmost to finalize this work by early adoption of the current draft FSC decision, and to work on further measures with a view to improve implementation of the Code.

The European Union will also fully support further activity in the FSC that follows up on previous decisions of crucial importance which require the FSC attention. In particular - support for the furthering the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540, and for UNSCR 1810, which is of particular relevance to a regional organisation such as the OSCE. In this context the EU notes with approval that UNSCR 1540 is highlighted in the tentative 2009 FSC work programme as a priority. The EU remains also committed to work on the issue of Antipersonnel Mines and Explosive Remnants of War in the OSCE area.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU looks forward to co-operating with the French FSC Chairmanship and to making an active contribution in order to strengthen the work of the FSC.

Mr. Chairman,

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.