



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 710 Vienna, 20 February 2013

EU Statement on the Presentation "NATO-Military Cooperation within the Partnership for Peace Framework"

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to thank Major General Carlos Branco for his insightful presentation to the NATO military cooperation within the Partnership for Peace framework, as well as the Liechtenstein Chair of the FSC for having organised this interesting Security Dialogue.

Today, the Member states of the EU note that 5 EU Non-NATO Member States are also members of the Partnership for Peace Program together with another 16 OSCE participating States. We welcome the fact that through their commitment to the goals of the Partnership for Peace Program, which are amongst others to increase stability and to diminish threats to peace, those nations also contribute to the enhancement of security in the whole OSCE region.

In pursuing its strategic objective of an "effective multilateral system" the EU is committed to reinforce its cooperation with the UN and other international and regional organisations. The EU-NATO partnership is one of the core elements of such an approach.

In particular, the EU and NATO close cooperation in promoting peace, security and stability in the Balkans and with regard to Afghanistan could be seen as a case in point.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU military operation EUFOR Althea has been launched in the framework of the "Berlin Plus" arrangements concluded in 2003 with NATO: the Operation

commander and the Operational Headquarters being provided by NATO, while the EU operation works closely as well with the NATO HQ in Sarajevo.

In Kosovo, the EU's Rule of law mission EULEX and KFOR enjoy good cooperation and coordination on the ground as KFOR mandate (Safe and Secure Environment) is closely related to upholding Rule of law (EULEX) mandate. The continued presence of KFOR in Kosovo is therefore considered essential.

In Afghanistan, NATO's ISAF operation is a key enabler for the EU's CSDP mission, EUPOL Afghanistan, to operate outside Kabul, in particular through providing security and logistical support. The cooperation and division of labor with NATO's Training Mission (NTM-A) is effective and well developed, with EUPOL concentrating on civilian policing, including leadership and specialized training to Afghan counterparts, and NTM-A on counter insurgency and basic police training. This partnership with NATO has enabled EUPOL to significantly improve the delivery of its mandate in recent years.

To conclude, we would like to thank Major General Carlos Branco again for his presentation as well as the Chair for organising it.

The acceding country CROATIA^{*}, the candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND^{**} and SERBIA, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

^{*} Croatia, 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 EFTA and the European Economic Area.