



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on the UN Approach to the Security Sector Reform: Potential Role of the OSCE

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to warmly welcome Mr Dmitry Titov, UN Assistant Secretary-General, to the Forum for Security Cooperation and express its gratitude for his comprehensive and enlightening presentation on the United Nations' activities in the field of Security Sector Reform (SSR).

We recognise the sustained UN efforts to establish a coherent and comprehensive approach to the wide-ranging array of security sector activities related not only to the stabilisation of post-conflict and transitioning countries but also to the broader context of good governance and conflict prevention. Major milestones in this respect are the 2008 and 2013 UN Secretary General's reports which define concrete recommendations on how best to strengthen the UN's role and comprehensive approach to SSR. We welcome the UN efforts and achievements and note with special attention the recommendations having regard to the coordination of external assistance for SSR. In particular, Mr Titov, we take note of your suggestions with regard to the cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE.

The EU has a long-standing experience to support SSR programmes in response to post-conflict, transitioning and developing countries. We have at our disposal a wide range of diplomacy, crisis response, development and security policies and instruments. For instance, most of the EU civilian and military crisis management missions and operations deployed world-wide have a SSR component. In addition, the EU supports SSR projects around the globe through its external cooperation instruments, such as the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace or the Development Cooperation Instrument. That is why the EU shares the view that SSR activities should be dealt with in a coherent and comprehensive manner.

We also share the view that there is a need for a more coherent OSCE approach towards SSR in line with the aim to enhance effectiveness and efficiency. Bearing also in mind that relevant OSCE commitments in this area already exist and most of them contain clear indications for enhancing coordination of efforts both internally and with other relevant international stakeholders. The key issue remains the implementation of existing commitments, rather than the creation of new ones.

We are convinced that SSR activities in the OSCE area clearly go beyond the first dimension having therefore a cross-dimensional nature. The Member States of the EU would like to take this occasion to reiterate their support for the improved implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security through its focused annual review as well as for other measures such as the enhancement of its outreach. Being an OSCE hallmark document in the field of good governance of the security sector the Code is a pertinent example of the OSCE cross-dimensional hence comprehensive approach to security.

The European Union would like to thank once again Mr Titov and to wish him every success in his professional endeavours.

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 UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA and GEORGIA 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 EFTA and the European Economic Area.