



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 714 Vienna, 17 April 2013

#### **EU Statement on the Assumption of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co- operation by Lithuania**

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The European Union (EU) and its Member States welcome Lithuania as the new Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We wish Luxembourg every success as a new member of the FSC Troika and thank the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which is leaving the Troika, for their efforts and dedication over the past year.

We would like to congratulate Liechtenstein and its efficient and committed team for the excellent work done in steering the FSC throughout the post-Dublin period. Achievements like the intense and multifaceted Security Dialogue, the reestablishment of the informal Working Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the adoption of two VD+ decisions amply deserve to be applauded and emulated.

Our sincere gratitude goes also to H.E. Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis, Political Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for outlining the Lithuanian Chairmanship's programme which provides a solid basis for the FSC's work during the second trimester of 2013.

The continued and constructive commitment to the day-to-day FSC work in all its aspects is, in our opinion, a pragmatic and meaningful way towards the consolidation of the vision of OSCE as a security community. Thus, we believe that the overall FSC activities throughout 2013, including under the Lithuanian FSC Chairmanship, will provide a tangible contribution to this end within the framework of the Helsinki + 40 Process.

In this context, we welcome the Indicative Schedule of the FSC Plenary meetings under the Lithuanian Chairmanship which foresees Security Dialogues aimed at highlighting national, regional and other multinational contributions to security and stability.

Although the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) is already behind us, ensuring the continued relevance of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBM) to evolving military realities in Europe will no doubt remain at the heart of FSC work under the Lithuanian Chairmanship. Building upon our

assessment of AIAM deliberations we would like to reconfirm our commitment to the full implementation, as well as to the substantial modernisation of the Vienna Document (VD) by giving careful consideration to all existing and new VD+ proposals. We believe that we must be able to discuss and negotiate both small, pragmatic proposals, and ones of more fundamental importance.

The Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), particularly Working Session III, which is to be prepared by the Lithuanian FSC Chairmanship in close cooperation with the Ukrainian CiO, will provide another opportunity to enhance the OSCE security dialogue and review work in the politico-military field. We hope the discussions at the ASRC will help participating States to identify constructive and creative ideas on how to take forward abiding FSC related taskings as adopted, *inter alia*, in Astana and Vilnius.

The second annual discussion on the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct (CoC) on Politico-Military Aspects of Security will be another important FSC waypoint under the Lithuanian Chairmanship. The improved implementation of the Code of Conduct through a focused annual review, as well as other measures, such as enhancement of outreach are of great importance. Having adopted decisions on awareness-raising and outreach, an update of the Questionnaire, a Reference Guide and an Annual Discussion on the implementation of the CoC, a better assessment and review of its implementation would now be welcome. It is regrettable that the yearly information exchanges are not assessed and analyzed; obtaining more meaningful, rather than purely statistical information, through the CPC, would be therefore of value.

We appreciate the Chairmanship's intention to give equal treatment to all aspects of FSC work, and are ready to fully support such an approach. The EU will continue to engage in strengthening OSCE activities and instruments in the field of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

We would support the need for the FSC to consider follow-up measures to the Second Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on SALW. We also welcome the recent adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and draw attention to the statement made by the EU High Representative on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 and circulated to all delegations. We believe that the FSC should take account of the ATT in its work. The EU will actively support the swift entry into force and effective implementation of the ATT. We encourage all OSCE participating States to sign and ratify this ground-breaking treaty after it opens for signature on 3 June 2013.

Equally, we will continue supporting the OSCE role for wider and more sustainable implementation of UNSCR 1540 and UNSCR 1325.

We look forward to actively cooperating with the FSC Chairmanship, the FSC Troika and OSCE participating States on the programme as just presented by Ambassador Čekuolis.

The acceding country CROATIA<sup>\*</sup>, the candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND<sup>\*\*</sup> 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, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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<sup>\*</sup> Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia 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.