



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation No 799 Vienna, 14 October 2015

EU Statement on Military Doctrines

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the speakers, LTC Johan Hansson, Swedish Armed Forces HQ Plans and Policy and LTC Palle Ydstebø, Norwegian Defence Commando Staff College, Department for Military Strategy and Operations, to the Forum for Security Cooperation.

We have listened with interest to the presentations outlining the process of developing military doctrines in pursue of national security objectives. We thank the Norwegian FSC Chairmanship for putting the topic of military doctrines on the FSC agenda. The academic approach to address military doctrines gives us a useful background in preparations for the High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar next year.

Holding periodic High-Level Military Doctrine Seminars is encouraged by paragraph 15.7 of the Vienna Document. We see the upcoming seminar as a valuable and necessary opportunity to share views and perspectives on a professional basis. It is also an occasion for a constructive dialogue which is more than ever needed.

We cannot neglect the present security situation in Europe that we find ourselves in. There is no doubt that reconsolidating European security requires respect and adherence to international law and the established principles of the OSCE. Without compromising these fundamental principles, we should explore ways to regain mutual trust and understanding. The High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar itself is in our view an important confidence and security building measure. Being a high-level military-to-military dialogue, it might amongst other things also pave the way for discussions on revitalizing Conventional Arms Control and Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs), especially the Vienna Document. A commitment to strengthen the Vienna Document doubtlessly requires political will. However, a more robust document, also in times of crises, will yield long-term security gains for all participating States. We look forward to updating and modernizing the Vienna Document on CSBMs in 2016, including a comprehensive review of the Vienna Document Plus proposals with the aim of increasing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States.

A key objective of the seminar is to have an interactive dialogue in order to examine the security situation in the OSCE area as well as changes in military technology and their implications for military doctrines. The changing nature of conflicts, new threats and challenges to security as well as different threat perceptions and technological advancements of individual participating States pose a challenge to confidence and stability in the OSCE area. Therefore, they should be addressed in a holistic manner, with mutual respect for each other and compliant with international law. At the same time, open and constructive exchange of views and sharing of experience at professional level can significantly contribute to increasing transparency among participating States. In order for the seminar to be as fruitful as possible, we encourage all participating States to pursue very high-level participation.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.