

FSC.DEL/93/09
29 April 2009

ENGLISH only

Prohlášení

Statement

Déclaration

Vienna 24 April 2009

**576th Forum for Security Co-operation
29 April 2009****EU Statement on the Assumption of the Chairmanship of the
Forum for Security Co-operation by Georgia**

Mr. Chairman,

The European Union would like to express a very warm welcome to Georgia as incoming Chair of the FSC and to the United Kingdom as a new member of the FSC Troika. We are looking forward to cooperating closely with the new Troika.

The EU wants to express once again its sincere appreciation for the excellent and effective work done by the previous Chairmanship, France. The EU was especially pleased with the efforts of French Chairmanship in preparing and successfully conducting the OSCE Workshop on a Comprehensive OSCE Approach to Enhancing Cyber Security and the Nineteenth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting. Follow-up to both these events will be important and challenging tasks for the upcoming FSC Chairmanship. The EU highly appreciated French input to

the content and quality of the Security Dialogue and its efforts to encourage participating States to fully implement CSBMs. We encourage the Georgian Chairmanship to continue with this path and fully use the opportunities presented in the Forum for interactive discussion on relevant security topics.

The EU thanks Mr. George Muchaidze, Deputy Minister of Defence of Georgia for his comprehensive Opening Statement, particularly as concerns his reference to the priorities of the Georgian FSC Chairmanship, which we welcome.

Regarding the situation in Georgia the EU has presented its position at numerous occasions in the OSCE reiterating its firm commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. In today's FSC meeting the EU would therefore like to focus in its statement on the priorities of the Georgian FSC Chairmanship just outlined.

The EU considers the adoption of the FSC decision on Technical Update of Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct (CoC) as a significant improvement to this very valuable CSBM. In this connection the EU would like to express gratitude to the FSC Coordinator on Code of Conduct for his excellent work. The EU will give full support to the proposal on the follow-up on ideas regarding the Third Cluster of CoC work on "supplementary measures" as a further step in strengthening the implementation of this document and expresses the hope that this will start during Georgian chairmanship.

Preparation for this year's OSCE Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) is one of the most important tasks for the FSC in this period and will require the active and constructive engagement of the FSC

Chairmanship and the involvement of all participating States. The FSC inputs to this Conference have to set up basic parameters for discussion of issues on the politico-military agenda, which is a primary objective of the ASRC.

Issues related to SALW and SCA have an important place on the FSC agenda. The EU will fully support all activities and efforts leading to the elimination of threats arising from destabilizing accumulation of SALW and SCA. The EU believes that closer co-operation with the UN and other International Organizations in this field has particular importance. Therefore we welcome the intention of Georgia to include these topics among its priorities which comprise, inter alia, of preparation for a special meeting to review the OSCE Document on SALW and its supplementary decisions with a view to explore possible further actions as tasked by the 2008 Ministerial Council.

Further support for the implementation of UNSCRs 1540 and 1810 remains an important topic for the FSC. The EU stands ready to discuss any proposal aimed at enhancing the OSCE's role in the field of non-proliferation.

The EU is pleased with the Georgian chairmanship's intent to organize the Joint FSC-PC meeting to review the progress of Geneva Talks and International presence in the region. In this regard we still see some room for further progress in cooperation between those two bodies.

Finally the EU would like to wish Georgia a successful chairmanship of the FSC and assures the new Chair of the EU's full support in its endeavors.

Mr. Chairman,

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

Thank you Mr. Chairman