



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 753 Vienna, 7 May 2014

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

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The European Union (EU) and its Member States welcome H.E. Natalia Gherman, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, and are grateful to her for having presented the FSC Chairmanship's programme and objectives during the second trimester of 2014.

We would like to take this occasion to sincerely thank the outgoing Chairmanship Malta for its determination and tireless efforts to advance the Forum's work during the first trimester of 2014 and, especially, for having given prominent attention to the security challenges in the Mediterranean region thus having actively upheld our commitment to the Mediterranean Partners. We wish Monaco every success as a new member of the FSC Troika and thank Luxembourg, which is leaving the Troika, for their efforts and commitment over the past year.

The outgoing Maltese Chairmanship had fully assumed the unexpected and highly demanding task to deal with one of the most serious challenges to the security in the OSCE area, since the establishment of the FSC in 1992, that is the illegal annexation of the Ukrainian region of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and the ensuing escalation of the military situation around Ukraine.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Swiss and Maltese Chairmanships for their consistent and resolute efforts to secure the necessary conditions in order to allow, in line with the very purpose of the FSC, for constructive dialogue and eventually consultations among OSCE participating States in view of addressing legitimate security concerns stemming from the crisis in and around Ukraine.

Unfortunately, since the beginning of the crisis we have been witnessing continued refusal of the Russian Federation to engage in a meaningful

dialogue in the FSC and to cooperate in dispelling concerns under the terms of the Vienna Document relevant provisions, including the Chapter III risk reduction mechanism. The latter's unprecedented repeated activation by several OSCE participating States is a telling testimony to the gravity of the situation and the urgent need to fully apply the existing Confidence- and Security-Building and Conventional Arms Control commitments and arrangements to substantially decrease tensions on the ground.

Hence, making full use of the OSCE politico-military acquis, not only in letter but also in spirit, by all participating States and especially by the Russian Federation, remains for us the FSC's top priority under the current circumstances and decisive step towards normalisation of the security situation around Ukraine.

At the same time, we are ready to actively engage, when appropriate, in consultations within the FSC and the Helsinki+40 framework on the implementation, update and modernisation of the OSCE politico-military instruments, including the Vienna Document, however reflection is required on the lessons drawn from the crisis in Ukraine.

Madam Minister,

We share your view that it is the right moment to reconfirm our agreed commitments. It is imperative indeed to continue enhancing the ongoing work on a broad range of issues dealt with by the FSC and its working bodies. In this respect, we believe that the MC decision 8/13 represents a very good basis for further reducing the risks related to the illicit spread and destabilising accumulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. We are therefore ready to make all efforts to put in practice its provisions in order to strengthen norms and activities in this area through improved implementation and increased coherence with the UN framework, taking also into account the upcoming Fifth Biennial Meeting of States of the UN Programme of Action.

In particular, we stress the need to continue discussing ways to review and update the OSCE SALW-commitments in the light, *inter alia*, of important recently adopted UN documents such as the ATT, UNSCR 2117 on SALW, as well as UNSCR 2106 and 2122 on women, peace and security. We wish to reiterate our commitment to the women, peace and security-agenda, as established by UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions and emphasise its relevance to the work of the FSC. We would also like to explore the possible

role of the OSCE in promoting the ATT in order to secure its early entry into force and to maximise its effectiveness.

With regard to other important FSC issues, we remain convinced that the OSCE's role and capacities devoted to implementation of UNSCR 1540 and related resolutions in the OSCE area need to be further enhanced. It will be also important to further promote the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and its full implementation. In this respect we look forward to constructive and fruitful Third Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct to be held on 9 July 2014.

We welcome also the rich and well balanced agenda of initiatives envisaged by the Moldovan FSC Chairmanship within the framework of the Security Dialogue which maintains the necessary degree of flexibility, and here we agree once again with your assessment, Madam Minister, in order to allow for discussion of both FSC core issues and key challenges to the security in Europe such as the current crisis in and around Ukraine.

Your Excellency,

On a different note, the European Union strongly supports the continuation and conclusion of the discussions in the "5+2" format with due respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. We appeal to all of the participants in the "5+2" format, the only means for ensuring the transparency and legitimacy necessary for a lasting solution, to act in a spirit of openness and co-operation so as to permit progress on substantive issues. We call on the participants to consider political, institutional and security questions as well as other baskets.

Let us thank you once again, Madam Minister, and ensure you in our full support for the Moldovan FSC Chairmanship's work and efforts to steer participating States throughout an extremely challenging period. We wish you and your team every success in your important professional endeavours.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the

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

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, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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