



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°850 Vienna, 5 April 2017**

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#### **EU Statement in response to closing remarks by the Chairperson of the FSC**

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The European Union and its Member States would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and your able team, for the successful work and leadership as FSC Chair in the past three months. We appreciate the choice of topics you have put on the FSC's agenda and congratulate you on the successful conduct of our meetings.

In particular, we commend your efforts in ensuring an open exchange of views on our main politico-military agreement, the Vienna Document 2011, by convening a special FSC in a more frank, seminar-like setting. We consider this event, as well as the breakout workshop organized by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, as important and useful opportunities to continue our deliberations on the Vienna Document and its further development from a more holistic perspective. We remain strong supporters of the modernisation of the Vienna Document in line with security challenges of the 21st century and technical developments in the military sphere and appreciate all efforts paving the way for strengthening the Document.

We have equally enjoyed the meetings devoted to regional security issues, which we consider an important aspect of our security dialogue, as well as exchange of views on further topics belonging to the "core" FSC agenda, including non-proliferation, women peace and security, SALW/SCA. We appreciate also your innovative approach while bringing to our attention cross-cutting and new issues, such as the role of military chaplains and freedom of belief in armed forces.

We look forward to working with the incoming Russian Chairmanship in the next trimester as well as to further events planned by Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and the deliberations in the framework of the IWG on the structured dialogue.

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

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