



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°889
Vienna, 18 July 2018**

**EU Statement on the Closing of the Session under
Slovenian Chairmanship**

‘Seven women, seven countries, seven unforgettable stories’ - Mr. Chairman, this moving first staging of the Seven documentary play by you, the Italian Ambassador, the CPC Director, as well as our colleagues, military advisors of the delegations of Canada, Switzerland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom was an important call for gender equality and advancing women’s participation in political and public life, conflict resolution and peace-building. We thank you and the colleagues for this powerful reminder of our OSCE commitments we have all signed up to.

This endeavour was fully in line with your efforts to promote gender equality and the role of women across the conflict cycle during your FSC Chairmanship and also in your capacity as MenEngage Network Chairman. The EU and its Member States very much concur with your approach to integrate gender in all aspects of the FSC’s work and encourage its continuation. Your successful efforts to ensure gender parity of speakers throughout your Chairmanship deserve appreciation and should serve as an example for the whole Organisation. In one of the Security Dialogue discussions under your Chairmanship, one of the panellists spoke about the need for a change of mindset in order to achieve progress with regard to gender equality. Your Chairmanship certainly provided an important contribution to this end and we commend you for that.

Mr. Chairman, you have guided us through a variety of topics which we have all enjoyed and contributed to. I would like to highlight some of them in the context of this closing session.

We remain committed to the full implementation of the existing politico-military commitments in letter and spirit by all participating States and continue to support a substantial update and modernisation of the Vienna Document, as well as the further development of Conventional Arms Control, CSBMs and other instruments in the politico-military area. In this context we greatly appreciate the fact that the very first

security dialogue of your Chairmanship was devoted to CSBMs and Arms Control, as well as the fact that you followed the practice of focused discussions on concrete VD+ proposals at the Working Group A. We encourage the incoming Chairmanships to continue this practice.

We welcome the inclusion of regional security issues into the agenda of this Forum. These discussions give us an opportunity to focus in greater detail on specific security challenges in the OSCE area and allow us to share first-hand experience on benefits from regional military and defence cooperation for overall security and stability in the OSCE area. Moreover, the joint FSC-PC last week on security in the Mediterranean reminded us that the security of the OSCE region is closely interlinked with the security of our Partners for Cooperation.

We have equally appreciated the discussions on SALW, mine action, women, peace and security, nuclear security, as well as the special session on commemoration of the centenary of WWI. We also welcome the fact that you included a joint session of the FSC and the PC on the Structured Dialogue into the agenda.

Mr. Chairman, we thank you and your able team for the successful conduct of your Chairmanship. We look forward to working closely with the incoming Swedish FSC Chair in the next trimester.

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 and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, 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.