



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N° 1200
Vienna, 8 November 2018**

**EU Statement in response to the report by the Director of
the Conflict Prevention Centre**

The European Union and its Member States would like to welcome Ambassador Marcel Pesko back to the Permanent Council and thank him for his report on the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre.

Conflict prevention and response to emerging crises lie at the very heart of OSCE activities. As the OSCE plays a central normative role for European security and is the inclusive platform for dialogue and confidence building, it is important that the Organization has the ability and tools, which are sufficiently equipped to prevent and respond to crises and conflicts.

The EU reiterates that full implementation of MC Decision 3/11 is a prerequisite for strengthening the capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation, mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation across all three dimensions. In this context, we welcome the work undertaken by the CPC, the autonomous institutions and other executive structures in close co-operation with other international actors. We reiterate that the CPC, autonomous institutions and field missions must be provided with sufficient resources through the UB to carry out their mandate effectively and efficiently. We agree with you Ambassador, that during discussions on the budget and on the extension of field missions' mandates, all delegations should act in a professional manner and concentrate on the operational functionality of the Organization.

We commend the CPC for maintaining and supporting OSCE engagement in Ukraine in an impartial, flexible and professional manner

and for its provided support to the SMM, the TCG, the PCU and the Observer Mission at the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints. Especially the SMM continues to face severe challenges in carrying out its mandate particularly in areas held by Russia-backed armed formations and we reiterate that the SMM must have full, safe and unhindered access throughout Ukraine, including the Crimean peninsula and to the Ukraine-Russia state border. We continue to believe that the full potential of the OSCE should be used and encourage the CPC to do all it can to maintain cooperation, flow of information, and synergies between OSCE structures, as well as – where appropriate - between OSCE and other international actors, active in Ukraine.

The resolution of the protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova, in Georgia, and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains a priority for the EU. As this as a core task of the OSCE it must stay high on the agenda of the Organization. We value the contribution of the CPC especially the support to the Special Representatives. The EU reiterates its strong support for the already existing negotiation formats. Encouraged by some positive results we should intensify the efforts to resolve protracted conflicts.

Field operations are playing a key role in the work of the OSCE; they are the eyes and ears of our Organization on the ground. We continue to support the strong and flexible mandates of them as they play an important role in early warning and in addressing tensions and conflicts. Their work with and across host countries and with civil society is of tremendous importance and complements the work of other international actors. We welcome the CPC's efforts to intensify regional cooperation of the field operations in Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. We would like to commend the excellent work of the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek as well. We found useful the two events, organized by the Secretariat, concentrating on the FOs.

The EU welcomes the CPC's efforts to develop new ways of operating in the South Caucasus and we would appreciate more, detailed information about the "Armenia Co-operation Programme". Furthermore, the EU would see the value of a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence in Armenia, Azerbaijan and throughout Georgia.

We appreciate the role of the CPC in early warning and early response, for example through the Situation Room, with the network of focal points also with conflict analysis and reporting and we welcome the intention to strengthen them. The work carried out by the Mediation Support Unit in close co-operation and exchange with the UN, the EU and other counterparts is also highly appreciated. We welcome progress made on implementing the guidelines on SSG/R, including at field level. We attach great importance to the full implementation, in letter and spirit, of existing OSCE politico-military commitments, modernisation of Vienna Document, and activities connected to SALW. We also value the Structured Dialogue. We thank the CPC for its support in all these matters.

We appreciate your commitment to gender mainstreaming, to promoting the role of women in the security sector, and welcome the activities of the CPC to advance this. The joint program with the UNODA is a good example and we encourage more concrete, positive measures and steps in this field. Amongst other proposed MC decisions, the EU is looking forward to discuss and hopefully adopt an MC decision on advancing women's participation in political and public life at the Milan ministerial this year.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to once again thank the CPC and its Director for their valuable work. We continue to fully support the CPC and wish Ambassador Pesko and his dedicated staff every success in their future activities.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO 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, 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.