



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 959 Vienna, 4 July 2013

EU statement on the Annual Report of the Audit Committee

The Member States of the EU welcome Michele Dayries, member of the Audit Committee and thank the Committee for its Annual Report. We highly value the work of the Audit Committee in assessing the internal and external controls in the OSCE.

We are pleased that progress has been made in recent years in a number of areas, including the adoption by the Secretary General of the “Evaluation framework” in the form of Administrative Instruction. This needs to be implemented effectively across the OSCE. At the same time, performance indicators need to be introduced into budget documents to help participating States to assess the impact of programmatic activities.

On internal controls, we welcome the “Statement of internal controls” signed by the Secretary General. We underline the principle of proper segregation of duties in conducting internal controls.

We note the recommendation that the Secretary General presents participating States with an impact analysis of a multi-annual budget cycle. We believe that an extended budget cycle would allow for more predictability and aid effective planning.

We agree with the Committee that the challenging budgetary context means that OSCE activities need to be better prioritized.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the Committee for its work and its contribution to strengthening the OSCE’s Control mechanisms.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO, align themselves with this statement.

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

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