



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°857 Vienna, 21 June 2017

---

#### EU Statement in response to the CSTO

---

The European Union and its Member States thank the speakers for their presentations and the Russian FSC Chairmanship for drawing the attention of the Forum to the work of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in countering current security challenges.

We see our interaction today in the context of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative security which rests on the underlying premise that security of each state is inseparably linked to that of all others and therefore that co-operation is beneficial to all states.

We are today reminded of the basic principles of co-operative security in Europe proclaimed in the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1999 Charter for European Security and other OSCE documents. This includes the inherent right of each participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements and the commitment of each participating State to respect the rights of all others in this regard, as well as the commitment on the non-use of force or the threat of force and peaceful resolution of disputes as set out in the UN Charter. Co-operative security can only be pursued if states fully comply with the commitments they signed up to and make sure that our common values become a reality.

In this context we underline the important role of the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, in advancing peace and security in Europe. The OSCE, as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation, has led over the years to a number of key commitments across all three dimensions, including fundamental politico-military agreements notably the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty, the Open Skies Treaty, the Vienna Document, and the Code of Conduct on Politico-military Aspects of Security. Their full implementation in

good faith is crucial for increasing military security and stability in the OSCE region. At the same time, given the evolving security environment and technological developments in the military sphere, we again underline the need to update and modernise our existing politico-military commitments. We will continue to support all efforts to this end and encourage others to the same approach. Political will is key in this context.

Finally, we thank the Chair for providing us with the opportunity to exchange views on this topic.

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