



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Statement by the Delegation of Cyprus at the 1074th Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation (17 April 2024)

Mr. Chairperson, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Cyprus fully aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the European Union but allow me to deliver some remarks in my national capacity. At the outset, I would like to congratulate Croatia on assuming the Chairpersonship of the Forum for Security and Cooperation. We commend Croatia for its commitment to promoting politico – military discussions in this Forum and we are confident that under its guidance, we will achieve meaningful progress on several critical fronts.

Croatia’s selection of themes for Security Dialogues demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing the pressing issues facing our organization.

The emphasis on humanitarian demining is particularly pertinent. As countries that have experienced the scourge of landmines know all too well, the remnants of conflicts continue to endanger lives long after the cessation of hostilities. The dialogue dedicated to this issue highlights the humanitarian commitment of the OSCE to safeguarding civilian lives.

Similarly, the focus on military education and training in the context of the changing roles of military academies reflects a forward - looking stance that is essential for modernizing our armed forces and ensuring that they are capable of responding to new types of threats.

The inclusion of emerging technologies and military data collection into our deliberations is another area where the OSCE can lead innovative discussions and set new standards.

Last but not least, the contribution of women to peace and security is an ongoing agenda, which is critical to the formulation of effective security strategies. The OSCE’s commitment to the WPS agenda sends a strong message about our values and our approach to comprehensive security.

Mr Chairperson,

Unfortunately, the discussions within this Forum will continue with significant challenges, primarily due to the ongoing war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine. This conflict has not only destabilized Europe but also posed numerous challenges to security and cooperation across our entire organization. The repercussions are felt globally, impacting both economic stability and human rights. Consequently, the Croatian Chairpersonship inherits the responsibility of navigating these turbulent waters, and this forum must play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges.

The importance of the FSC in promoting dialogue on vital political and military issues cannot be stressed enough. As a platform for dialogue, the FSC is uniquely positioned to facilitate understanding and foster cooperation among participating states. In these challenging times, we must work collectively to ensure that the OSCE remains a forum for constructive and inclusive dialogue that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.

As we commence discussions under the Croatian Chairpersonship, the Republic of Cyprus reiterates its full support and willingness to collaborate closely with the Chair. Cyprus stands ready to support Croatia throughout its tenure, both as the preceding Chair and within its capacity in the Troika.

Thank you.