



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 731 Vienna, 23 October 2013

EU Statement on Dayton Article IV agreement

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States I wish to warmly welcome Major General Michele Torres back to the FSC, in his capacity as the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords, and thank him for his presentation.

The achievements of the four Parties, assisted by the Personal Representative, are to be applauded. This includes both the operation and governance of the agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, alongside the parallel progress of Transferring Ownership to the Parties. Since its inception in 1996 and, judging by what we have heard today of the future of the Agreement, this important regime has been and will remain a cornerstone of stability and security in Southeast Europe. Founded on a strong sense of cooperation and transparency among the Parties, the implementation and positive development of the regime, in both a political and technical sense, is an example of Arms Control at its best.

We encourage furtherance of both aspects of Article IV, such that arms control will continue to play an important role, and that post-2014 it will be a model of sub-regional cooperative security that is operated for and by the Parties. This will represent the fruition of many years of hard work and political will aimed at delivering the mutually beneficial objective of improved stability. We hope that the final, yet vital political and practical steps towards this new era will be completed on time.

Croatia's accession to the EU on 1 July 2013 as well as the improved relations in the region, are important steps to an enhanced stability. It is expected that the increasing normalisation of relations between the countries in the region will bring positive ripple effects, including in contexts such as Dayton Article IV.

The FSC has an important role in developing a mutually reinforcing and interlocking web of arms control and CSBMs. We believe that Dayton Article IV is an extremely relevant sub-regional component to this web. Among our various commitments, especially but not only within Chapter X of the Vienna Document 2011, there is clear benefit from a layered, multifaceted approach to military predictability and security. While all participating States obviously benefit from measures which apply across the board, we should not underestimate the value both sub-regionally and more broadly, of such complementary mechanisms. It is for this reason that we are keen to learn more about Dayton Article IV, both its past successes and how it has evolved and continues to adapt to the sub-regional security situation, as this will assist the Forum in the development of its framework of instruments.

Once again, I wish to thank Major General Torres for his briefing and express our appreciation to him and his staff for their dedication and expertise. We wish them every success with the work ahead of them.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND**, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country ALBANIA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, 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 EFTA and the European Economic Area.