



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 674 Vienna, 15 February 2012

#### **EU Statement on the Implementation of the Vienna Document 2011**

---

On behalf of the Member States of the EU we would like to make the following statement.

We view the Vienna Document (VD) as one of the main components of the interlocking and mutually reinforcing web of arrangements and agreements for confidence-building, transparency, stability, predictability and security in the OSCE area, and its full implementation by all participating States has crucial importance in maintaining our goals.

We duly took note of the Russian Federation's oral statements at the FSC meetings on 18 January 2012 and 8 February 2012 setting out their justification for their refusal to accept evaluation visits from Spain and Sweden under the Vienna Document 2011 (VD 2011) procedure.

We would like to express our dissatisfaction with the fact that the requests of Spain and Sweden were not accepted. We do not consider administrative and/or technical difficulties sufficient reason for invoking *force majeure* under the Vienna Document 2011.

We hope that the problem which the Russian Federation faces will be solved as soon as possible with the aim of ensuring full and unimpeded implementation of the VD 2011. This would be of crucial importance in order to avoid longer-term negative implications on the overall implementation of the VD 2011.

In this respect, we would appreciate it greatly if further information, particularly with respect to timelines for resolution of the problem, can be provided by the Russian Federation as soon as possible.

The acceding country CROATIA<sup>\*</sup>, the candidate countries THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO and ICELAND<sup>\*\*</sup>, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

---

<sup>\*</sup> Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.