



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°902
Vienna, 12 December 2018**

EU Statement on the outcome of the MC in Milan

Madame Chairperson, the European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Italian OSCE Chairmanship and the Swedish FSC Chair for proposing two very good texts for adoption by our ministers in Milan, highlighting areas of utmost importance for all of us.

We thank you, Chairperson, and your excellent team for the leadership during the negotiations and for your tireless efforts which resulted in the adoption of the MC declaration on OSCE efforts in the field of norms and best practices on SALW and SCA. While the declaration recognises the OSCE's work and achievements in combating illicit trafficking in SALW and conventional ammunition and the need to further enhance OSCE norms and best practices in order to better address present and emerging challenges, it also sends an important political signal. A signal that when political will is in place, consensus can be achieved, despite differences among pS. We hope that we can carry on in this positive spirit in the FSC next year, also in other areas. We see the agreement on the SALW/SCA declaration also as a confirmation of the importance we attach to the OSCE's work in this area, both regarding its normative side and the assistance projects.

Madame Chairperson, we commend the Italian OSCE Chairmanship and the Swedish FSC Chair for presenting an ambitious and substantive draft decision on strengthening military transparency, risk reduction and incident prevention, topics of urgency and importance for many participating States. It is disappointing that we missed the opportunity to reach agreement on the text. Despite this, our work towards achieving greater transparency and predictability must continue. We call for the modernisation of the Vienna Document which also provides ample opportunities for doing so. We emphasise the need to work towards creating an environment con-

ductive to reinvigorating Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs. We value the Structured Dialogue as a meaningful, state-owned and state-driven process for in-depth exchanges on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area and we actively support it. Honest and genuine engagement by all participating States is key to this end.

Finally, our sincere thanks go to the colleagues from the FSC support section who significantly contributed with their knowledge to the positive outcome in the politico-military dimension in Milan.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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