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## **EUROPEAN UNION**

### **OSCE Annual Security Review Conference Vienna, 26 – 28 June 2012 Working Session I**

#### **EU Statement on Transnational Threats and Challenges, 26 June**

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Achieving greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging Transnational Threats (TNT), as tasked by the Astana Summit, has become one of the OSCE's key objectives in moving towards a Security Community. It continues to be a priority for us, too.

Building on deliberations since 2008, we have been much engaged in ensuring that OSCE contributions to address TNT are more visible, better coordinated and more geared towards making use of the OSCE's specific expertise and capacities, including the Organisations' comprehensive concept of security and unique geographical scope.

To this end, modernizing and consolidating both the mandates and the structures of our organisation must go hand in hand. This is important in order to make full use of the OSCE's expertise and comparative advantages and to complement and not duplicate the efforts of other international organisations. This should be done in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, fully respecting OSCE commitments and principles, including those in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr Chairperson,

Against this yardstick, we are pleased to note that by the time of this year's ASRC, significant progress has been accomplished on the structural side: MC decision 9/11 has given a framework for enhanced internal and external coordination on activities related to TNTs. It also paved the way for the swift creation of the new TNT Department within the Secretariat that builds on the existent units and strengthens programmatic coherence. Setting up the new open-ended Informal Working Group established pursuant to PC Decision 1039 on Confidence Building Measures in cyber space was another positive step, demonstrating that the OSCE is preparing to deliver tangible contributions to emerging global efforts regarding security in cyber space. We believe that 2012 is a real opportunity for the OSCE to demonstrate leadership and achieve a breakthrough on Confidence Building Measures designed to enhance cyber security. Our goal must be to maintain the momentum so as to outline a set of Confidence Building Measures in time for adoption at the Ministerial Council in Dublin, which can be further developed in the coming years.

With the new structures now in place, it is crucial to complete work on the package of three strategic mandates. The sound experiences with the Border Management Concept adopted several years ago show that such strategic guidelines and frameworks are crucial for effective OSCE contributions on TNTs. Structural adjustments alone, which are not complemented by up-to-date mandates, will not bring about the envisaged enhancement of the profile, the output and the complementarities of the OSCE's TNT-related activities. Securing further political backing and necessary funding will only be successful if both structures and mandates of the OSCE are put into the appropriate shape.

It is therefore our priority to adopt, very soon, a strategic framework for police-related activities and consolidated counter-terrorism mandates. The draft decisions have achieved a very large degree of consensus, and they

are tailored to the capacities of the OSCE and will offer significantly better guidance and profile for future activities of the organisation. We make a further appeal to all participating States today to take the final steps in a constructive spirit so that we adopt all strategic TNT-decisions before the summer recess.

Mr Chairperson,

Achieving effective mandates and structures is not an end in itself. We value the particular contribution that the OSCE makes to the fight against Transnational Threats: providing capacity-building, promoting fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in preventing and combating TNTs, utilizing its unique and flexible Field Missions and Institutions together with the Secretariat. We acknowledge the OSCE's specific capability regarding activities on border management and security (including the Border Management Staff College), on policing and law enforcement reform, on countering terrorism in all its forms, on pioneering the elaboration of Confidence Building Measures for cyber-space and, last but not least, translating international commitments and standards to our regional level.

In this vein, we look forward to carrying on our joint endeavours to improve the OSCE's effectiveness in tackling transnational and emerging threats and challenges, including those stemming from Afghanistan.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

\* Croatia, 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 the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.