



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 620 Vienna, 15 September 2010

EU statement on the Expert Report on the Questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

Mr Chairperson

The European Union welcomes this initiative on an academic study on the 2010 replies to the Questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the presentation on its outcome today. We believe that this report is very timely and that its conclusions will be a valuable contribution for completing the drafting process of the Reference Guide.

The EU regards the Code of Conduct as a unique document of the OSCE acquis. It promotes a wide spectrum of themes and principles, covering inter-state and intra-state affairs and embodies the OSCE's cross-dimensional and comprehensive approach to security. The EU considers the Code of Conduct as indispensable in providing for democratic control of the armed forces, paramilitary forces, internal security forces, intelligence services and the police.

The EU attaches great importance to the full implementation of the Code of Conduct by participating States and to the monitoring role of the FSC in this regard. We support the idea of better assessment and review in order to improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

The decision on a technical update of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct was adopted with the aim to improve not only the quantity but also the quality of the annual information exchange. The findings of the study show some progress in this respect but also underline the necessity of an assisting instrument like the proposed Reference Guide. The EU recognises that not all participating States used the updated Questionnaire in their responses in 2010, and hopes that all participating States will do so in 2011.

The EU expresses its hope that the findings presented today will contribute to the timely completion of the Reference Guide before the next information exchange, thereby improving the replies to the Questionnaire and increasing transparency and accountability between participating States.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.