



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on the CASM Programme in the Republic of Moldova

The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes Col. Andrei Șarban, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the National Army of the Republic of Moldova, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thanks him for the comprehensive presentation on the Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management Programme. We take this occasion to congratulate the Moldovan authorities for their steadfast commitment to reducing the risks related to excessive accumulation of conventional ammunition.

In the framework of its 2005 Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition, the European Union actively promotes the effective and full implementation of OSCE commitments on SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

We welcome the OSCE's prominent role in providing assistance to participating States in the destruction of SALW and conventional ammunition and in improving stockpile management and security practices. The Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management Programme is a successful example of OSCE's added-value activities. The CASM Programme has contributed to a safer environment and to security and safety of the civilian population in the Republic of Moldova.

The European Union welcomes once again the positive and very comprehensive results achieved so far and we are pleased to learn that the preparations and implementation of the next phase have begun. We take note of the need to continue to support the OSCE Mission and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Moldova for the continuation of the Programme.

In conclusion, we would like to thank once again Colonel Șarban and to wish him every success in his professional endeavours.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND** and SERBIA, 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.

* 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.