



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°880
Vienna, 18 April 2018**

**EU Statement in response to Mr. Andrej Logar, State
Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic
of Slovenia**

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome Mr. Andrej Logar, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank him for outlining the priorities of the Slovenian FSC Chairmanship, as well as for presenting views of his country on the current security challenges in the OSCE area.

We would also like to use the opportunity to once again thank the Slovak FSC Chairmanship for its able leadership during the first trimester of 2018.

Slovenia assumes the FSC Chairmanship at a time when we continue to be confronted with a blatant violation of international law and basic OSCE principles by the Russian Federation following its illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol and destabilizing actions in eastern Ukraine. We once again urge all sides to comply with the commitments they have signed up to, as a sustainable political solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine can only be reached through full implementation of the Minsk agreements.

We would like to thank you, Mr. State Secretary, for presenting a balanced and comprehensive agenda of the Slovenian FSC Chairmanship, which we fully support.

We highly value the continued attention you intend to pay to CSBMs and the Vienna Document. We remain committed to the full implementation of the existing commitments in the politico-military area, including the Vienna Document, the Treaty on Open Skies and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. Given the changes in the security environment as well as developments in the military sphere we remain convinced that our work on the modernisation of the OSCE's politico-military instruments must continue. We therefore highly welcome your intention to dedicate our first security dialogue to the topic of CSBMs and Arms Control, as well

as to continue focussed discussion of Vienna Document modernisation proposals at the WGA.

We look forward to the 7th Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-military Aspects of Security.

We look forward to the discussion on Small Arms and Light Weapons, with a special focus on export controls and deactivation. We welcome the adoption of the OSCE best practice guide on SALW deactivation during the Slovak FSC Chairmanship. This is an important achievement, also with a view to the upcoming Third Review Conference of the UN PoA and the OSCE's contribution to the process. We attach great importance to enhancing peace and security in the OSCE area by reducing the threat posed by the illicit trafficking and excessive accumulation of SALW and conventional ammunition and fully support the OSCE's activities to this end.

Mr. Chairman, we commend you for your dedicated work to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the OSCE/FSC context as Chairperson of the MenEngage Network. Only about a month ago, on the occasion of the International Women's Day, you reminded this Forum of the remaining challenges in ensuring equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, as envisioned by the landmark UNSC resolution 1325. This is why we look forward to the security dialogue discussion on women, peace and security on 9 May to examine how the OSCE's work in this area can further be enhanced.

We look forward to the joint FSC/PC meeting on the Structured Dialogue. We welcome the intention of the Italian OSCE Chairmanship to further develop the Structured Dialogue, building on the valuable work undertaken in 2017, and look forward to seeing its mapping exercise contribute to military transparency, predictability and deeper understanding of threat perceptions in Europe. We appreciate the efforts and the leadership of the Chairman of the IWG, Ambassador Paul Huynen to this end and thank the Chair for convening the first meeting of the IWG in 2018 in capitals format earlier this week focusing on risk reduction, de-escalation and threat perceptions.

We commend the FSC Chair for including regional security and cooperation issues into the agenda. Such meetings have proved to be extremely interesting and useful

in broadening our perspective to better understand security challenges arising from a regional context. We thank you for drawing our attention to other interesting topics, including the centenary of the End of World War I, Nuclear Security in the OSCE Area as well as the Role of Mine Action in all Phases of the Conflict Cycle. Only a few days ago, on 4 April, we have marked the International Mine Awareness day. Landmines continue to kill people years after conflict has ended. They continue to instill terror and stop people from returning to their homes or normal lives. We will use the security dialogue to share the EU's experience and commitment in addressing the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to use this opportunity to assure you of our support throughout your FSC Chairmanship. We look forward to working with you and wish you and your team every success.

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 country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, 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.