



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, Vienna, 24-26 June 2014

EU Statement on the Conflict Cycle: Lessons Learned and the Way Ahead

(Working Session I)

The EU and its Members States believe that this year's ASRC comes at a highly sensitive moment. With the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by the Russian Federation, the OSCE region has become less secure. Strengthening the OSCE's capacities across the conflict cycle and achieving tangible progress in the resolution of protracted conflicts are therefore essential.

Because of the crisis in Ukraine, we have once again witnessed the OSCE's early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation capacities in action. The crisis has again underlined the indivisible and comprehensive nature of security. Politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects of security must be addressed equally if we are to ensure sustainable peace and stability.

It has also been a true test of the OSCE's crisis management capacities. The establishment of the Special Monitoring Mission was in itself a significant achievement which confirmed that participating States are ready to use OSCE crisis management capacities, although we still need to ensure safety, free access and freedom of movement for the SMM and OSCE Institutions throughout Ukraine, including Crimea. We think that lessons learned should be collected and analysed from the deployment of the SMM and other OSCE missions in Ukraine, including the HRAM and the military inspections under the Vienna Document, to further improve OSCE capacities in conflict management.

Mr. Chairperson,

We commend the Secretary General, the HCNM, the Secretariat and especially the CPC, including through the field missions, for continuously developing the capabilities of the Organisation across the conflict cycle through the consistent implementation of MC Decision 3/11. Closing the gap between early warning and early action remains essential. We welcome reports to the Permanent Council by the Secretary General and by the HCNM on emerging tensions and conflicts as a useful early warning tool. We would also welcome more follow-up reporting to the PC on measures taken. Enhancing the OSCE's role in mediation support and consolidating its post-conflict rehabilitation capabilities remain equally very important. Women, Peace, and Security, including implementing UNSCR 1325 through an OSCE-wide action plan, should also be at the top of our agenda. Finally, we believe that the added value and capacities of the OSCE field missions in addressing conflict situations should be further explored and enhanced.

Mr. Chairperson,

Protracted conflicts in our region pose a threat to the security of the entire OSCE area. The resolution of the existing conflicts in the OSCE area remain a top priority for the EU and our positions on these conflicts are well known. The EU supports the existing formats of negotiations and calls on all actors involved to demonstrate commitment to conflict settlement.

On the conflict in the Republic of Moldova, we fully support the '5+2' format and appeal to all participants in the '5+2' talks to address all three baskets in negotiations and advance discussions on the substance of the settlement, based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The OSCE Mission must be allowed to implement its mandate and have full access to the territory of the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region. On Georgia, we reiterate our firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and call on all parties to show commitment to the Geneva International Discussions which remain an indispensable tool for reducing tensions, addressing humanitarian needs, and implementing commitments under the 2008 ceasefire agreement. The persistent challenges demonstrate the need for a meaningful,

cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia. On the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, we reiterate our full support for the mediation carried out by the co-Chairs of the Minsk Group and encourage the parties to make greater use of the efforts undertaken by the co-Chairs with the aim of achieving a fair and lasting settlement in accordance with international law

Finally, we continue to see value in organising thematic meetings at the OSCE devoted to emerging and ongoing crisis and conflict situations in the OSCE area.

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

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro 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.