



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 787 Vienna, 6 May 2015

#### **EU Statement on Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures**

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The European Union and its Member States welcome the OSCE Secretary General H. E. Lamberto Zannier, the Head of the NATO's Arms Control and Coordination Section Mr. William Alberque and Mr. Vladislav Chernov from the Russian Federation to the Forum for Security Cooperation and thank them for their insightful presentations. We also welcome the presentation made by the Helsinki+40 coordinator on CAC and CSBMs, Ambassador Lüdeking.

Cooperative security remains at the core foundation of Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) in Europe. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and Sebastopol and its destabilising actions in eastern Ukraine challenge the security system in Europe. At the same time Russia's selective approach to the CAC and CSBMs regimes puts into question their implementation.

The Ukraine crisis strongly underscores the potential value of CAC and CSBMs which rely on countries complying with their commitments and obligations and implement them fully and in good faith. In particular, it is yet another reminder of the urgent need to update and modernise the Vienna Document so that it better respond to the current European security environment.

This is why we reiterate our longstanding view that a modern, functional CAC regime that provides stability and predictability would bolster the security of the whole OSCE area. In relation to this topic, the Member States of the European Union noted with regret the decision by the Russian Federation to "suspend their participation in the Joint Consultative Group per 11 March 2015". This step further undermines the existing CAC and CSBMs regimes in the OSCE area.

We still consider enduring commitments on CAC and CSBMs regimes as set out in Astana, Vilnius and other relevant OSCE Documents, to be not only a valid basis for the FSC's work but also in need of further progression. We continue to count on Russia's political willingness to engage in a constructive dialogue on European security and on the future of CAC.

We also like to reiterate our readiness to pursue both a pragmatic and forward looking approach in the process of modernisation of the Vienna Document on CSBMs with the aim of ensuring increased military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States and to restore confidence lost during the ongoing crisis. In this context, it is our opinion that the FSC should take stock of lessons learned in Ukraine and reinvigorate dialogue regarding the application of the Vienna Document including in crisis situations.

We are mindful that CAC and CSBMs regimes are not designed to solve conflicts. Conventional arms control first and foremost enhances predictability and, by reducing threat perceptions, contributes to security, stability and mutual trust. Strong CAC regimes can thereby support political solutions.

In conclusion, we reiterate our firm belief that lasting security in and for Europe can only be achieved through a collaborative effort of all participating States and a genuine commitment to the instruments of comprehensive and cooperative security.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA<sup>\*</sup>, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND<sup>\*\*</sup> and ALBANIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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<sup>\*</sup> The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.