



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1401 Vienna, 8 December 2022

EU Statement in response to the report of the OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

1. The EU warmly welcomes the OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners, Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) Helmut Napiontek, back to the Permanent Council, and thanks him for his report.
2. We take note that from the time of the signing of the bilateral agreement on 30 April 1994 the number of eligible personnel has decreased from 22,320 to 4,484 as of 1 October 2022, around 600 less than one year ago.
3. We welcome that, as in previous years, no individual complaints by military pensioners have been made and that no Commission meetings have been held either.
4. We take note of your evaluation that the annual fixing of the Russian reimbursement for medical care expenses for military pensioners does not seem to present a particular problem for the two sides at the moment. However, we regret that no real progress has been achieved in resolving this issue, where, according to your observation, the Representative plays only a marginal role.
5. We recall your assessment that there have been no new fundamental issues concerning the work of the Representative and that both sides appear to evaluate the current situation as stable. Therefore, we share your conclusion that the function of a Representative should continue to exist on a “stand by” basis, acting only if requested, and requiring only minor resources, as reflected in the 2023 budget proposal scaled down by 27,3% compared to last year.

6. In conclusion, we thank you for your engagement over the past year and we wish you a positive continuation of your functions.

The Candidate Countries NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA*, ALBANIA*, UKRAINE and the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, the Potential Candidate Countries BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA* and GEORGIA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.