



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°937 Vienna, 15 January 2020

EU Statement in response to Mr. Sedat Önal, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

The European Union and its Member States welcome H.E. Mr. Sedat Önal, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank him for outlining the priorities of the Turkish FSC Chairmanship, as well as for presenting the views of his country on the current security challenges in the OSCE area.

We were deeply shocked and saddened by the news of the downing of the Ukrainian International Airlines aircraft near Tehran last week. We would like to express here in this forum our deepest condolences to the families and friends of all victims.

We would also like to use the opportunity to once again thank the Czech FSC Chairmanship for its able leadership during the last trimester and to warmly welcome Ukraine as a new Troika member. Turkey assumes the FSC Chairmanship at a time when we continue to be confronted with blatant violations of international law and basic OSCE principles.

In this context, let us recall our well known position on Russia's acts of aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, which we strongly condemn and do not recognise. We express our deep concern about the ongoing large-scale militarisation of the Crimean peninsula by Russia, which continues to impact the security situation in the Black Sea region and beyond. 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 welcome the recent positive developments on the ground and the continued international diplomatic efforts within the Trilateral Contact Group and the Normandy format. The Normandy Four summit on 9 December in Paris brings hope for improved and hopefully more result-oriented dialogue. The ceasefire remains to be fully implemented and access of SMM monitors should be unrestricted.

We remain committed to the full implementation in letter and spirit of existing commitments in the politico-military dimension, which is essential for enhancing military transparency and political stability in the OSCE area. Towards this end, we continue to support the substantial modernisation of the Vienna Document, as well as the further development of Conventional Arms Control, Confidence and Security Building Measures and other instruments in the politico-military toolbox. The modernisation of our OSCE politico-military toolbox, most notably the Vienna Document, is vital in order to increase military stability, transparency and predictability. We urge all participating States to engage actively and constructively in these important discussions at the OSCE in 2020, taking due account of all VD modernisation proposals on the table, including the joint proposal supported by 33 participating States, and reiterate that this is an open and inclusive process without predetermined outcome.

At the same time, we want to recall the Ministerial commitment of all participating States in Hamburg 2016 to work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating arms control and Confidence and Security-Building Measures in Europe. We value the Structured Dialogue as a meaningful, transparent, inclusive, state-owned and state-driven process for in-depth exchanges on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area and we will continue to actively support it in 2020.

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the choice of topics for your FSC Chairmanship. We look forward to discussing non-proliferation issues and the implementation of UNSCR 1540. The EU and its Member States 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. This is demonstrated inter alia through support and contribution to the OSCE's assistance projects.

We are pleased that the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security will be discussed during your tenure and look forward to exchanging views and sharing best practice on how to achieve greater participation of women in the security sector and gender equality in the armed forces. The EU and its Member States remain determined to continue to lead globally on these issues, including in the OSCE context, especially in light of the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 this year.

We welcome continuation of the practice of bringing regional security and defence cooperation issues to the FSC's attention and look forward to forthcoming discussions, in particular on security challenges in Afghanistan.

We also note your intention to devote a joint FSC-PC meeting to the topic of counterterrorism. Terrorism is one of the most important threats to peace, stability and security, as well as to the enjoyment of human rights in the OSCE area and beyond.

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 REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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