

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

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EU statement on the proposed OSCE Summit

The European Union would like to express its appreciation to the Chairmanship for putting this important issue on the agenda of the Permanent Council today.

It is timely in view of the upcoming Informal Ministerial in Almaty. It is pertinent in view of the ongoing discussion of the Interim report. And it's important in view of the need to define a strategic vision for the way ahead.

Mr Chairman,

The European Union has set out its views on the proposed Summit in document PC.DEL/539/10.

Let me stress that we have done so on the basis of a strong mandate given to us by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the European Union who discussed this topic in Luxembourg on 14

June. Our Ministers clearly defined the four sets of priorities which they believe should be key deliverables for the proposed Summit. The EU stresses that they relate very much to the dialogue we have pursued in the Corfu Process on Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security as a whole, which has not been confined to the remit of the OSCE.

First, the European Union wishes to strengthen OSCE capabilities in all three dimensions to promote early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, including in relation to protracted conflicts. We are ready to discuss, as appropriate, updated and new mechanisms. Most important will be to strengthen the generic capabilities of the OSCE institutions. As regards protracted conflicts, we see tangible progress as a key litmus test of the good will of partners.

Second, the European Union wishes to strengthen implementation and better follow-up of OSCE norms, principles and commitments (including updating them as necessary), in particular, human dimension commitments: this means emphasis on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the media.

Third, the European Union wishes to strengthen the conventional arms control framework, including confidence and security building measures (updated VD 99). Progress on CFE will be very important.

Fourth, the European Union wishes to give increased attention to transnational threats, including those emanating from Afghanistan, in all three OSCE dimensions. This means utilizing more strategically and displaying more clearly the effective contribution the OSCE can give, including in reviewing its Maastricht strategy.

These are our four priorities. But, as we have already indicated in our informal discussions on the interim report, we are open to discuss also other relevant proposals put forward by participating States in the Corfu process.

Mr Chairman,

The European Union has also set out in its paper the key points of departure for its analysis of the proposed Summit.

-First, we would like to stress that this should be a Summit with Corfu at its heart;

-Second, we need a substantial agenda with clear reaffirmation of OSCE commitments and mandates for future work;

-And third, we need to set out these mandates in an action plan.

Our overall objective is and remains to restore trust and confidence.

Our strategic vision is a reinforced and modernised security community from Vancouver to Vladivostok, where no one feels left out or threatened, and the use of force is unthinkable.

To make this vision possible, we need to advance towards an OSCE+.

The comprehensive approach to security in all three OSCE dimensions needs to be safeguarded. Full adherence to OSCE norms, principles and commitments is of key importance. The proposed Summit should lead to enhanced efforts to implement them. We want to enhance the existing security architecture and we want the European security dialogue to continue to be anchored within the OSCE and channelled through the Corfu process.

The autonomy and integrity of OSCE institutions, not least in areas such as electoral observation, freedom of the media, etc, must be maintained. The ability of OSCE executive structures to provide optimal support needs to be ensured. Finally, we wish to further define the role of the OSCE among security organisations in the OSCE area.

Mr Chairman,

With these words we should have made it absolutely clear what we mean with a substantial agenda for the proposed Summit. We are ready to work hard in the coming days, weeks and months in order to move forward in realising the substantial objectives that we have outlined. We want to work together with all participating States.

Finally, to refer to the concluding section of the Interim Report, the importance of continued clear leadership by the Chairmanship can hardly be overstated. The EU stands ready, as ever, to support you in this as we move ahead. In this context, we look forward to the Chairmanship presenting a clear outline on agenda and aims of a

proposed Summit well ahead of the Almaty meeting in order to allow for a thorough preparation of the latter.

I thank you.

Los países candidatos CROACIA*, la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA* e ISLANDIA; los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA; al igual que REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA y SAN MARINO se suman a esta declaración.

*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.