



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1067  
Vienna, 10 September 2015**

---

**EU Statement in Response to the Report by the Director of  
the Conflict Prevention Centre, H.E. Ambassador Marcel  
Pesko**

---

The European Union and its Member States would like to welcome H.E. Ambassador Marcel Pesko to the Permanent Council and thank him for his interesting report on the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre. We also thank H.E. Ambassador Adam Kobieracki for his exceptional work as Director of the CPC and wish him all the best for the future.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine, the OSCE has proven to be indispensable for crisis management. We highly appreciate the significant contributions of the CPC in organising and supporting OSCE engagement in Ukraine in an impartial, flexible and professional manner. In particular, we commend the CPC's role in setting up and supporting the Special Monitoring Mission. We are well aware of the challenges for the SMM in carrying out its mandate and we will continue to strongly support the mission, including by providing qualified staff, appropriate equipment and sufficient financial resources in a timely manner, including for the provision of UAVs. We also commend the CPC for its support to the OSCE Observer Mission at the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints. We would like to ask the Director to transmit our special thanks to the former Chief Observer of the Border Observation Mission, Mr. Paul Picard, and wish him every success for his work at the CPC.

We continue to believe that the full potential of the OSCE on the basis of its comprehensive concept of security should be used in the current situation, including the PCU and the autonomous institutions in their respective areas. We

encourage the CPC to do all it can to continue to contribute to effective cooperation, exchange of information, and synergies between the different OSCE structures working in Ukraine, as well as between OSCE and other international actors active in Ukraine.

The crisis in and around Ukraine has also demonstrated the constraints on the OSCE, including on operational, financial and legal issues. Although the crisis is still very much ongoing, we believe it is important to draw lessons from the OSCE's engagement. We consider the Food-for-Thought Paper circulated on 21 July as a basis for further discussions on the full implementation of MC Decision 3/11.

The EU continues to strongly support the indispensable work done by the CPC and hope that efforts made to enhance internal cooperation, produce internal guidelines and identify synergies in collaboration with other parts of the executive structures will bear fruit in the coming years. The EU cherishes its good co-operation with the CPC on a number of important issues.

Strengthening the role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation should be given continued attention, in the context of the comprehensive implementation of MC Decision 3/11. The crisis in and around Ukraine has further highlighted the importance of this. In this respect, we would like to stress that prevention is better than cure: investing in the prevention of the outbreak or recurrence of conflict can save lives and preserve livelihoods.

The resolution of the protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova, in Georgia and of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains a top priority for the EU. We regard this as a core task of the OSCE and we support the contribution of the CPC. The EU reiterates its strong support for the Geneva Discussions, the negotiations within the "5+2" format and the mediation of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group. We support the contribution of the CPC and we encourage them and the relevant field missions to continue the promotion of confidence building measures and projects which contribute to facilitate dialogue and fostering understanding between all sides. This should include increased co-operation with civil society

organisations in the conflict regions in order to map potential ways for promoting understanding and rebuilding trust and confidence. Intensified efforts to resolve existing protracted conflicts are needed. From its side, the EU will continue to promote and support confidence-building measures to assist with the resolution of these conflicts, in co-operation with the OSCE and other relevant interlocutors.

The EU highly values the activities of the autonomous institutions and OSCE field presences. These structures have a central role to play throughout the conflict cycle. We continue to see the value of a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence in, among others, Azerbaijan and throughout Georgia.

We are pleased that a network of early warning focal points has been established and we welcome efforts to train field mission staff in conflict analysis, mediation skills and dialogue facilitation. We also welcome the increasing attention being paid to Central Asia and the co-operation between the CPC and the TNT department in areas such as border management and policing. We look forward to concrete proposals on the scope to intensify our cooperation with Mongolia, where we should pay heed to the interest of Mongolia in hosting an OSCE presence. We also appreciate continuing engagement with Afghanistan on these issues. We remain convinced that the OSCE's role and capacities devoted to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and UNSC Resolution 1540 on Non-Proliferation should be further enhanced on a sustainable basis.

Finally, we continue to attach great importance to the full implementation and the enhancement of existing OSCE politico-military commitments, including the Vienna Document and appreciate the assistance provided by the FSC Support Section in that regard. We are also ready to strengthen, in line with our consistent position, OSCE instruments and capacities in curbing the illicit spread and destabilising accumulation of SALW.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to once again thank the CPC and its Director for their valuable work. We continue to fully support the work done by the CPC and wish Ambassador Pesko and his dedicated staff every success in their future work.

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

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania 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.