



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE

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EU Statement on the Assumption of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation by Denmark

The European Union extends a very warm welcome to Denmark as incoming Chair of the FSC and to Spain as a new member of the FSC Troika. The EU is aware that the workload for the rest of the joint work programme of the FSC Chairmanships in 2007 is quite demanding. For our part, we wish to continue a good cooperation and we look forward to working constructively with the FSC Troika on the program ahead and on the preparations for the Ministerial Council in Madrid.

Though our minds are set on the present and future work, the EU would like to express its sincere appreciation for the excellent work done by the previous Chairmanship, Croatia, as we recall the successful coordination of the special meeting on the Code of Conduct and on the FSC contribution to the ASRC, the active agenda of the Security Dialogue and the pragmatic chair of some very lively workgroup meetings during which, preparations for important coming events took place. We would also like to thank Cyprus, who left the Troika, for its valuable contribution to the FSC's work.

The follow up special meeting of the working group "A" on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security constituted a further step towards an improved implementation of this very important tool. The EU would like to

express its gratitude to the co-ordinator of the special session, Ms Oya Yazar-Turan and to FSC co-ordinator for the CoC Colonel Anton Eischer. The EU, to whom thorough implementation of the Code of Conduct is of paramount importance, is committed to continue lending its efforts in this area.

The EU continues to attach high priority to the work of FSC related with SALW and CA. The ongoing work of the OSCE on SALW and CA took a further step with the special FSC meeting on combating the illicit trafficking of SALW by air. It constituted a first opportunity for experts and delegates from OSCE participating States, as well as representatives of the air transportation sector and governmental and non-governmental organizations, to discuss ways of improving controls with the aim to prevent this scourge. The meeting resulted in a number of proposals, which will be further developed in the FSC.

We note with satisfaction the further progress in OSCE projects with the aim of containing and reducing the dangers emanating from surplus stockpiles of SALW, as well as stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices. This also includes project work with regard to rocket fuel Mélange. In this regard, the EU encourages the Conflict Prevention Centre to co-ordinate actively with other donors and international bodies supporting projects in the various fields of OSCE work. In relation to this, we warmly welcome the ongoing co-operation between the OSCE and Member States of the European Union and UN Development Program in tackling these challenges. We welcome the ongoing work in the FSC to develop Best Practice Guides related to Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, and call on all participating States for an active engagement in this valuable work, where the OSCE is in a lead-position among international organizations. We would like to support the Danish Chair in the preparation of draft progress reports on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2007

The emphasis on the discussion of politico-military issues at the latest ASRC showed the importance of this dimension in the OSCE. The exchange of views that took place was the continuation of an open, and we dare to say frank dialogue, that has been going on in the FSC. Though much has been achieved and the *acquis* is significant, the EU acknowledges the need to continue this dialogue. In this regard, we look forward to the organisation of the Special FSC Meeting «On Existing and Future Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the OSCE Area» due to take place on 24 October 2007. The EU believes this coming event constitutes an important opportunity to discuss related politico-military issues in an integrated manner. The Member States of the EU are willing to commit themselves to this effort towards an improved common security environment.

The EU supports the global efforts on non-proliferation of WMD. We believe there is a role for FSC to contribute, without duplicating efforts, to the difficult work being carried out by other relevant international bodies. In this context, the EU supports the ongoing preparation of a Compendium of suggested implementation practices as a contribution with added-value in this field within the area of the OSCE and possibly even beyond it.

The EU also welcomes the special FSC meeting on Civil Military Emergency Preparedness, due to take place on the 26th September 2007, that should constitute an opportunity to enhance dialogue amongst OSCE participating States and with its partners for co-operation.

Finally, we would like to wish Denmark a successful chairmanship of the FSC. The EU reiterates its willingness to work constructively with the FSC Troika on the program ahead and on the preparations for the Ministerial Council in Madrid.

The Candidate Countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia, EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.