



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°834 Vienna, 9 November 2016

EU Statement on reissuing the Vienna Document 2011

The EU and its Member States regret that despite the tireless efforts of the FSC Chair, consensus on reissuing Vienna Document 2011 could not be reached, due to the opposition of the Russian Federation. We continue to believe that reissuing the Vienna Document is a technical and practical matter, allowing for incorporating of VD+ decisions in one “new” version of the Vienna Document and should not be politicized. We note that Vienna Document 2011 remains in force until such time as participating States agree its reissuance.

We believe that we should identify lessons from this year’s reissuance process and consider reviewing the current text of the Vienna Document 2011 (para 151 and 152) with the aim to find a solution together to avoid repetition of this year’s scenario, as well as to the risk of a possible implementation gap.

Despite the disappointing result of the efforts to reissue the Vienna Document this year, we believe that our work on further strengthening the Vienna Document must continue. The changes in the security environment, as well as technological developments in the military sphere make the necessity to substantially update and modernise the Vienna Document more than obvious. We welcome the proposals currently on the table on various chapters of the Vienna Document. Some of them enjoy broad support among OSCE participating States, including EU Member States, such as the proposal on lowering thresholds for prior notification of certain military activities. Other proposals, including those on Chapter III on risk reduction, aim at reducing risk, decrease odds of miscalculation and diminish actions that could give rise to tension.

The numerous texts suggested by many around this table on various chapters of the Vienna Document underline the need and desire to advance further our commitments and instruments, to make them more crisis-proof, and to dispel concerns and hence strengthen confidence between OSCE participating States, which in the current security situation is more than ever needed. We appreciate and support the FSC Co-ordinator's and FSC Chair's efforts to continue discussions on the Vienna document modernisation and its further improvement. We stand ready to engage actively in the discussions on the Vienna Document modernisation and encourage others, including the Russian Federation, to take the same approach. Genuine dialogue is needed, as progress can only be achieved if all partners in the OSCE display the necessary political will.

Finally, we stress the need of the full implementation of the existing OSCE commitments in the politico-military area, including the Vienna Document. We believe that avoiding selective approaches will enhance trust and confidence in the Euro-Atlantic area to the benefit of all of us.

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

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