



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 729 Vienna, 2 October 2013

EU Statement on the CASM Programme in Serbia

The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes Brigadier General Bojan Zrnić, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia, and Mr. Ivan Zveržhanovski, SEESAC Coordinator, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thanks them for their comprehensive presentations on the joint UNDP/OSCE Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management Programme (CASM).

Having been officially launched in February 2012 following Serbia's request for OSCE assistance to enhance the security and safety of conventional ammunition storage locations and the disposal of surplus ammunition, the Programme is a good example of OSCE/UNDP partnership in which OSCE adds value by bringing its considerable operational experience and managerial expertise to bear.

We note with satisfaction the cross-cutting nature of the Programme and appreciate its expected positive impact in various important areas such as human security, counter proliferation, reduction of environmental pollution and sustainable development. We concur with your assessment Brigadier General that the Programme contributes thereby to enhancing regional security and stability.

To this end, the EU has carried out several activities, in the framework of its 2005 Strategy on SALW, to combat the excessive accumulation and illicit spread of SALW and SCA, in particular through the implementation of Council Decision 2010/179/CFSP in support of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the control of SALW (SEESAC).

The EU welcomes the OSCE's prominent role in providing assistance to participating States in the destruction of SALW and conventional ammunition and improving stockpile management and security practices. These activities have been strongly supported, including through the provision of financial means, by the EU and its MS, several of which are among the donors to the CASM Programme in Serbia.

We note the positive results achieved so far and look forward to seeing further progress with the CASM project. We will continue to give close consideration to supporting this and similar activities.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA^{*}, MONTENEGRO and ICELAND^{**}, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ARMENIA align themselves with this statement.

^{*} The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

^{**} Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.