



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 774 Vienna, 10 December 2014

#### **EU Statement on the Outcome of the Basel Ministerial Council**

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The European Union and its Member States would like to reiterate our congratulations to the FSC Chairmanship for the excellent work ahead and during the Basel Ministerial Council which expertly facilitated the consensus reached on two FSC documents. We are also pleased to underscore our appreciation to participating States for their efforts allowing us collectively to achieve the results we did at the Basel Ministerial Council in the Politico-Military field.

For our part, we began and pursued negotiations in a constructive spirit and on the basis of principle positions that we have consistently promoted throughout the year and in particular during Monaco's FSC Chairmanship.

In the field of SALW and SCA these relate to support for full implementation and strengthening of relevant OSCE commitments and activities to combat illicit trafficking and destabilising accumulation of SALW and SCA. Therefore, ahead of Basel we clearly stated our ongoing opinion that the FSC should ensure coherence and complementarity with OSCE commitments related to the UN framework, *inter alia*, the outcome document of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States, the Arms Trade Treaty, UNSC Resolution 2117 on SALW, as well as UNSC Resolutions 2106 and 2122 on women, peace and security.

In this context, we believe the ATT is relevant to our work in the FSC. The ATT is a global Treaty pursued over many years through the UN. Indeed, the UN Secretary General serves as the Depository, and the Treaty remains open for signature at the UN in New York. The relevance to SALW work in the OSCE area will only increase after the ATT's entry into force on 24 December, and we look forward to discussing such through the FSC Security Dialogue.

Furthermore, the Member States of the European Union have reaffirmed our support for the full implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct while welcoming the initiative of the Swiss and Monegasque Chairmanships to table for discussion the Draft MC Declaration dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the adoption of this landmark OSCE document.

We believe the adoption by the MC in Basel of the Decision on SALW and SCA as well as the Declaration on the CoC contributes positively to the FSC efforts and future work in enhancing the normative framework of the OSCE politico-military dimension of security. We would have wanted them much stronger and closer to the existing security realities and developments, but acknowledge at the same time that through their adoption progress has been made in promoting a cooperative spirit in the FSC work.

We regret that for third consecutive year the participating States were not able to reach consensus and even properly discuss the Draft Decision on Issues Relevant to the FSC in order to define tasks for the next year. This was one more missed opportunity for constructive dialogue aimed at restoring trust and confidence in the FSC that has been severely impacted by the crisis in and around Ukraine.

Our approach to this document was based on the understanding that the negotiation process is an important confidence-building measure in itself. This is why we were ready to actively engage in drafting in order to help foster as broad agreement as possible on the need to preserve, consolidate and modernise the OSCE politico-military acquis. We therefore strongly urge delegations to contribute to restoring an inclusive and open dialogue within the FSC without preconditions and limitations.

Notwithstanding the failure to discuss and adopt a FSC framework decision, we are of the firm opinion that the full implementation and modernisation of existing OSCE politico-military commitments, in particular the Vienna Document, remain an urgent task to be pursued by the FSC, with a view to enhancing the Organisation's risk reduction, conflict prevention and crisis management capabilities, as well as verifiable transparency and predictability in the military field. The FSC shall also take steps towards revitalising the security dialogues on conventional arms control and confidence and security building measures.

We urge all participating States to reengage in constructive discussions to this end by taking stock, inter alia, of the lessons learned during the crisis in and around Ukraine.

To conclude, let us assure all participating States that we remain firmly committed to preserving and enhancing the FSC toolbox with a view to restoring trust and confidence in the OSCE area. Redoubled efforts and strong political will are however more than ever needed in order to overcome the negative effect of the crisis in and around Ukraine on the implementation and the value of the OSCE commitments in the field of CAC and CSBMs.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND\*\*, SERBIA and ALBANIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

\*\* Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.