



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE FSC n°922 on 24 July 2019 EU Statement - Closing session under the Tajik Chairmanship

FINAL DRAFT

The European Union and its Member States wish to take this opportunity to thank you, Ambassador, and your able team for having assumed the Chairmanship of the FSC and conducted it so successfully in the past trimester.

Under your chairmanship considerable attention was devoted to the Central Asian region, focusing on regional security issues. We commend you for having highlighted the important work of the OSCE in the region and for having brought to our attention important multilateral institutions that contribute to cooperation and confidence building in Central Asia. We also thank you very much for having given the EU Special Representative for Central Asia H.E. Peter Burian the opportunity to address the FSC and to brief on the new EU Central Asia strategy.

We also commend you for having continued the efforts launched by the previous Swiss chair to reinvigorate the discussion at the Working Group A on the Vienna Document, our main politico-military agreement on confidence and security building measures. We underline the importance of making progress on VD modernisation and value the focused discussion of Vienna Document modernization proposals at the FSC's Working Group A.

We reiterate our strong commitment to full implementation in letter and spirit of the existing commitments in the politico-military dimension, which is essential for enhancing military transparency and political stability in the OSCE area. We remain strong supporters of a substantial modernisation of the Vienna Document, which we consider vital in order to increase military stability, transparency and predictability.

At the same time, we want to recall the Ministerial commitment of all participating States in Hamburg 2016 to work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating arms control and Confidence and Security-Building Measures in Europe. We value the Structured Dialogue as a meaningful, state-owned and state-driven process for in-depth exchanges on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area and we actively support it. We welcome the fact that you included a joint session of the FSC and the PC on the Structured Dialogue into the agenda.

Mr. Chairman, your Chairmanship took place against the background of the clear violations of the rules based international order of which OSCE politico-military instruments form a key part. We strongly condemn the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by acts of aggression by the Russian armed forces since February 2014 and the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol to the Russian Federation, which we will not recognize. We reiterate our well-known position on the unjustified use of force by Russia at the Kerch Strait on 25 November 2018 and its negative impact in the Azov Sea and Russia's violations of international law. The increasing militarization of Crimea continues to impact negatively the security situation in the Black Sea region. We take this opportunity to recall our unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

We wish to highlight the session on women, peace and security, featuring prominent speakers sharing their profound and highly relevant insights into the topic with us. We interpret the high number of responses to the guest speakers as a sign of the importance OSCE participating States continue to attach to the promotion and implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in the OSCE and we encourage Chairmanships to further build on this potential.

Finally, we look forward to the Czech FSC Chairmanship for the remaining part of this year and we would like to use this opportunity to assure our Czech colleagues of our support throughout their tenure. We look forward to working with the delegation of the Czech Republic and wish their team every success.

The Candidate Countries the REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO and ALBANIA*, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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