



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1019 Vienna, 16 October 2014

EU Statement on in Response to the Reports by the Chairpersons of the three Committees

The European Union and its Member States thank the Chair of the Security Committee, H.E. Ambassador Dominic Schroeder, the Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee, H.E. Ambassador Ol'ga Algayerova, and the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee, H.E. Ambassador Robert Kvile, for their presentations. We thank the chairs for their able stewardship of the committees and we are pleased to have had the opportunity today to hear their plans for the period ahead. The committees make our consultations more participatory, interactive and transparent, and we welcome the active participation of representatives from the OSCE institutions, OSCE field missions, and civil society. We encourage the continuation of this approach also in the future.

Regarding the Security Committee, the thematic meetings organised this year have been very informative and pertinent. We appreciate the increased focus on cross-dimensional and collaborative working and are particularly pleased that OSCE actors were given the opportunity to demonstrate their practical contribution to the OSCE's work on transnational threats. We are looking forward to the coming meetings and discussions on deliverables for the Ministerial Council under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Schroeder.

Our priority continues to be implementation of the OSCE's transnational threats (TNTs) related decisions, including the 2005 Borders Concept. When implementing these decisions, we underline that, where appropriate, work has to be done in close cooperation with other international stakeholders active in the fight against TNTs, such as UNODC.

There is also a continued need to ensure a cross-dimensional approach in TNTs with full respect for the implementation of human dimension commitments. The Security Committee has an important role in overseeing the OSCE's activities on TNTs, and in particular the implementation of the decisions taken in this field.

We need to continue to give special attention and support to the cyber Informal Working Group. We are pleased that implementation of the first set of CBMs is well under way and we are of the opinion that it will be useful for discussions on the second set. We reiterate that, for the second set, we support setting the focus on a few cooperative CBMs on which consensus would be easier to reach.

Mr Chairman,

Regarding the Second Dimension, we appreciate the continued practice of organising thematic meetings. We value especially implementation of commitments, and contributing to ensuring continuity in our endeavours, such as the most recent Committee meeting on the implementation of the two Kyiv decisions as well as the meeting on fight against corruption earlier this year. The Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting should provide us with further opportunity to take stock of the progress made by OSCE participating States as well as the Secretariat on the implementation of the commitments in the area of good governance, transparency and fight against corruption made in Dublin in 2012.

We are grateful for organising the recent meeting on sharing best practices on sustainable water management. This was an interesting follow-up to the Security Days event on water security. That highlighted the potential of water as a source of tension and conflict and thus underlined its clear link to security and its pertinence for the OSCE. We believe that the adoption of the topic for the 2015 Economic and Environmental Forum "Water governance in the OSCE area – increasing security and stability through cooperation" provides a good

opportunity to further strengthen the OSCE's portfolio in the area of water and security as well as water diplomacy.

Finally, Mr Chairman, concerning the Human Dimension Committee, there have been many useful and important discussions already this year, and we wish to thank the Chairperson of the Committee and his team for assembling such high calibre speakers to address the Committee. We expressed already our appreciation for the participation of representatives from OSCE institutions, field operations, and civil society and would welcome even more involvement for civil society in the Committee. We also appreciate the invitations to attend Committee meetings that the Chairperson has regularly extended to the Council of Europe and UNHCR representatives in Vienna, as well as to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights.

The EU would also like to reiterate its appreciation and support for the continued practice by the Chairperson of a standing agenda, including the item on voluntary reporting. We believe such practices enrich the discussions in the Committee. We agree with the Chairperson that the voluntary reporting item provides a useful opportunity for states to outline their feedback and planned follow-up to recommendations made by the OSCE, including Election Observation Missions. The EU would like to assure the Permanent Council that we will continue our practice of making voluntary reports to the Committee on our efforts to fully implement OSCE human dimension commitments, and we encourage other participating States to do likewise.

We look forward to the Committee's work in the coming months on the Chairmanship's draft Ministerial decision on torture prevention. We expect that the committee will also have the opportunity to focus on drafts in other areas including in relation to the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms.

The EU wishes the three chairs every success in the year ahead. To those of you who will step down at the end of the year, many thanks to them personally and to their teams for their efforts.

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 LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, MONACO and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* 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 the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.