



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on Resilience through Comprehensive Security

Mr Chair, thank you for putting the topic of Resilience through Comprehensive Security on our agenda. We also thank today's distinguished speakers for their presentations. Additionally, we found the Chairpersonship's idea to distribute a related academic paper by the Finnish National Defence University to be a pertinent and welcome addition to our deliberations. As today's topic has become especially timely in the OSCE area in the context of Russia's war of aggression and its repercussions for global security, the background paper enabled us to consider the role of civil society and psychological resilience in Ukraine under these circumstances as well as to better understand the Finnish model.

European Council President Costa underlined at the meeting of EU leaders earlier this month: "We are committed to face common threats, on all fronts, whether conventional, hybrid or cyber, with a common purpose."

The topic of resilience is very timely for the European Union and its Member States. A communication entitled "Resilience 2.0: Empowering the EU to thrive amid turbulence and uncertainty" was published just last month in the framework of this year's Strategic Foresight Report, in a time when security has become a key vector for all EU policies. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has changed the perspective on security.

The document envisages a resilient EU in 2040 based on three fundamental elements: peace through European security, including a combination of military strength and whole-of-society preparedness, as well as respect for values of democracy, rule of law and human rights, and people's well-being.

The Resilience 2.0 approach is closely linked to the EU Preparedness Union Strategy. This strategy identifies the need for strengthening civil-military cooperation, including by conducting regular EU-wide preparedness exercises, uniting armed forces, civil protection, police, security, healthcare workers, and

firefighters as well as developing standards for civilian-military dual use planning and investment.

A key principle of the preparedness strategy is a whole-of-society approach, which fosters an inclusive culture of preparedness and resilience involving citizens, local communities and civil society, businesses and social partners as well as the scientific and academic communities. The other principles include an integrated all-hazards approach, also covering human-induced threats and a whole of government approach, including an effective cooperation between the civilian and defence authorities. Under the preparedness strategy, EU actions will complement national efforts of Member States.

Mr Chair, we marked the World Mental Health Day last week and as you pointed out in today's background documents, psychological resilience is one of key aspects of resilience in general. We recognise that obstacles to good mental health cannot be overcome within the health system alone. Policies in areas such as, among others, education, culture, environment, cohesion, innovation and social protection, are needed to improve mental health and support mental health resilience.

As also already stressed in a dedicated Security Dialogue under Canadian Chairpersonship, the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of mental health is a fundamental human right. The Geneva Conventions and a number of other international humanitarian law instruments provide clear guidelines for the protection and care of wounded, sick, and civilians during armed conflicts. The EU and its Member States are committed to upholding these standards and we call on all participating States to do likewise.

Mr Chair, as you correctly identified in your concept note and the background paper, the OSCE's strength lies in its role as a platform for dialogue and its ability to bring together the participating States to maintain communication on these issues. We cannot stress more the importance of the Forum in this regard.

Thank you.

Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.