



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1247 Vienna, 14 November 2019

EU Statement in response to the report by Dr. Volker Frobarth, OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

The EU warmly welcomes for the second time to the Permanent Council the OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners Dr. Volker Frobarth.

We thank you for your report, distributed well ahead of time, indicating that only very few issues are still on the agenda.

We take note that from the time of the signing of the bilateral agreement on 30 April 1994 the number of eligible personnel has decreased from 22,320 to 6,520 as of 15 October 2019, 541 less than one year ago.

It is most encouraging, as you point out, that as in previous years no individual complaints by military pensioners have been made.

As last year, the issue of the annual fixing of the Russian reimbursement for medical care expenses for military pensioners is still unresolved. No particular progress has been achieved in resolving this question where the Representative plays only a marginal role.

You state that there are no new fundamental issues concerning the work of the Representative but that it is impossible to rule out individual complaints from military

pensioners in the future which could warrant OSCE involvement. We therefore share your conclusion that the function of a Representative should continue to exist on a “stand by” basis, acting only if requested and requiring only minor resources. In this regard, we note that the 2020 budget proposal is the same as last year, as you indicated at the ACMF last October.

In conclusion, we thank you for your engagement over the past year and we wish you a positive continuation of your work.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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