

## ***Joint Declaration on strengthened cooperation on foreign and security policy between Switzerland and the European Union***

*The long standing foreign and security cooperation between Switzerland and the European Union ('EU') is based on shared interests and values, principles and goals, among which the preservation of peace, the strengthening of international law including international humanitarian law, the promotion and protection of human rights, the fostering of international cooperation and partnerships, the support of the resilience of democracies, and the upholding of multilateralism and the international order based on international law including the principles of the United Nations Charter.*

*Mindful of their shared interests and values in an ever-changing geopolitical context, Switzerland and the EU endeavour to strengthen their relationship and foreign and security cooperation at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels on the basis of mutual respect and dialogue.*

*They jointly declare their intention:*

- *to hold a yearly political dialogue between the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy*
- *to continue the bi-annual consultations between the State Secretary of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and the Secretary General of the European External Action Service*
- *to continue to hold and expand dialogues and consultations on a regular basis, at the appropriate level:*
  - o *with a geographical scope of common interest, such as Eastern Europe including the mutual commitment to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine, based on international law including the United Nations Charter, the Western Balkans, the South Caucasus, Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the US*
  - o *with a thematic scope of common interest, such as security and defence, human rights, peace mediation, multilateral affairs (including the UN, international Geneva, the OSCE, the OECD, the CoE, etc.), restrictive measures, consular affairs, crisis and security management abroad*
- *to consult informally ahead of conferences and international summits such as meetings of the European Political Community*
- *to strengthen and expand cooperation between EU delegations and offices and Swiss embassies and missions in third countries and to international organisations in relation to matters covered by this declaration, including through joint demarches*
- *to strengthen cooperation in the areas of foreign policy, security and defence, including international security, in accordance with applicable legal and institutional frameworks*

- *in accordance with applicable EU internal rules, to invite Swiss representatives, as appropriate, to meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council and its relevant preparatory bodies (Political and Security Committee etc.) as well as other relevant Council preparatory bodies such as the EFTA Working Party*