

## 4. European security

### Overview

*At the end of the cold war the underlying causes of confrontation in Europe appeared to have been eliminated. A shared assessment of the main problems facing Europe, and a common approach to dealing with them, now seemed possible. In constructing a rules-based European order in which cooperation would be organized, states carefully balanced political, politico-military, human security, environmental and economic issues within a framework of comprehensive security.*

*Events in 2016 reinforced the view that all the elements of the European cooperative security system were under strain. A step-by-step estrangement of Russia from the countries that participate in the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has led to changes to politico-military policies, military modernization and adapted force postures that could increase the risk of confrontation and military clashes. At the end of the year, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) proposed a renewed emphasis on addressing politico-military aspects of security.*

*Armed conflict has returned to Europe. Section II of this chapter maps an escalation in violence in some of the protracted conflicts in the post-Soviet space that emerged in the last years of the Soviet Union and the years that followed its demise. Efforts to find a sustainable peace in eastern Ukraine, where conflict has now claimed roughly 10 000 lives, did not bear fruit. All these conflicts contain the potential for significant escalation.*

*Section III of this chapter describes recent developments in Turkey in the context of a security environment that is the most complex in Europe, domestically, regionally and internationally. With a new upsurge in violence from multiple sources, 2016 was the most challenging year in recent Turkish history. At the end of the year, neither the conflicts on its borders with Iraq and Syria (and their spillover effects e.g. major displacement) nor the upsurge in domestic and international mass-impact terrorism had abated. Internal political and constitutional challenges in the aftermath of the failed July 2016 coup attempt competed with important reassessments of relations with key partners: the EU, Russia and the United States.*

*Political and human rights dimensions of the European security system were also challenged in different ways. With mixed success, key security institutions, the OSCE, the EU and the Council of Europe responded to the need to protect the independence of the judiciary; safeguard freedom of the media while combating*

*hate speech; protect the rights of minorities; and ensure that states met their legal obligations regarding the humane treatment of refugees.*

IAN ANTHONY