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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1160th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

12 October 2017

On the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in Azerbaijan

The European Union is committed to equality and against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity all over the world. It recalls that the fundamental principles of equality in rights and dignity must be respected for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, in accordance with the commitments made by the participating States.

The European Union is concerned about reports from civil society in Azerbaijan of the ill-treatment, torture and arbitrary detention of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons by the police.

We call on Azerbaijan to shed light on these allegations and to respect the rights of all persons on its territory in accordance with its international commitments, to which it has freely subscribed.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area Norway, as well as San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.