



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council N° 1185 Vienna, 10 May 2018

EU Statement on the occasion of Europe Day

Mr. Chairman, yesterday, 9 May, was Europe Day when, every year, Europeans remember and celebrate the beginning of a unique project: a unity of European nations living side by side in peace and prosperity.

The EU is built on the strong foundations of shared values and common purpose rooted in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. This strongly resonates with the OSCE hallmark concept of comprehensive and cooperative security. The EU and its Member States make a unique contribution to the vitality and relevance of the OSCE. For over two decades the European Union has been speaking with one voice in the framework of the OSCE. A significant number of participating States regularly align themselves with EU statements and positions. The EU and its Member States constitute half of the OSCE membership and contribute together 70 per cent of the OSCE Unified Budget and the SMM budget.

In today's world the European Union's shared values are more relevant than ever – for our citizens, partners and all those who want to work in a cooperative way to strengthen multilateralism, peace and security, sustainable development, free and fair trade, human rights and democracy.

We cannot forget that, while so much progress has been achieved in Europe in the past decades, peace is still not a reality on the whole of the European continent, as we are reminded at every meeting of the Permanent Council.

The EU aims to realize the values we believe in and strengthen partnerships we build globally. In the current global environment our friends around the world look to us as a reliable partner for peace and human development. In this regard the EU and its

Member States continue to provide over half of the total Official Development Assistance globally, investing in people, stronger institutions and societies.

The European Union will continue to work tirelessly in the OSCE and elsewhere, to share and deepen the security benefits that derive from peace, democracy and human rights, on the European continent and beyond, to the advantage of all our citizens.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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