



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Special Permanent Council Nr 1016 Vienna, 8 September 2014**

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#### **EU Statement on the Threat to the Security of the OSCE Region by ISIL**

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The European Union, recalling the conclusions by its Heads of State and Government of 30 August 2014, strongly condemns the brutal and abhorrent indiscriminate killings and human rights violations perpetrated by ISIL and other terrorist organisations which represent a threat to regional security as well as to the security of the OSCE region: they are an affront to universally recognized values and rights.

We are very concerned about the use by ISIL, Al-Nusra Front, and other terrorist organisations of foreign fighters from the OSCE region and elsewhere, and the risks that these foreign fighters may pose upon return to their home countries. The European Union strongly believes that determined action is required to stem the flow of foreign fighters, in particular to: prevent radicalisation and extremism; share information more effectively; dissuade, detect and disrupt suspicious travel; and investigate and prosecute foreign fighters. The EU is committed to ensuring the swift and full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2170, calling on Member States to suppress the flow of foreign fighters, financing and support to Islamist extremist groups in Iraq and Syria, and UNSCR 2133 which calls on Member States to prevent terrorists from benefitting directly or indirectly from ransom payments. We welcome the excellent work being developed by the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department this year and highlight in particular the forthcoming Mediterranean Counter-Terrorism Expert Workshop on Kidnapping for Ransom, to be held in Malta this month.

In June the Council adopted the revised EU strategy for combating radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism. The main objective of this strategy is to prevent a

new generation of terrorists from emerging. We underline the importance of coordinated action by countries from the region to counter these threats. We support the efforts of the Chairmanship for a ministerial decision on the topic of foreign fighters in Basel, which should contribute to a more coordinated approach by participating States in combating the risks posed by foreign fighters.

More generally, the fight against ISIL will need to be set in the context of wider measures addressing the political, security and socio-economic dimensions of this phenomenon that are closely interlinked. The EU is determined to develop a regional strategy along those lines and implement it alongside its partners and allies.

We remain deeply concerned by the political situation in the OSCE's southern neighbourhood and in particular by the deterioration of the security situation in Syria and Libya which are vulnerable targets to the threat of terrorism. In this respect, the European Union reiterates the need for stronger engagement with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to combat and prevent the spill over of terrorist threats, ISIL and other terrorist organisations to the OSCE region.

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, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as MONACO 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.