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**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1478th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 June 2024

In response to the current issue raised by the United States of America

The European Union pays tribute to human diversity in all its richness and to the right of every individual to be proud of who they are, to define their own identity and to love the person they choose. It condemns all persecution, discrimination, brutality and extreme forms of violence, including murder and torture, committed on the basis of a person's sexual orientation or real or presumed gender identity. In that spirit, tens of thousands of participants joined in the 2024 Regenbogenparade (Pride parade) in Vienna on 8 June.

The European Union stresses that there can be no hierarchy between the different grounds for discrimination, all of which are equally reprehensible and run counter to the universality of human rights, to the fundamental values of the European Union and to the commitments undertaken by all OSCE participating States. As long as such discrimination persists, the European Union will continue to work to end it. Equality and non-discrimination are core values and fundamental rights in the European Union, enshrined in its treaties and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The European Commission, the Parliament and the Council, as well as the Member States, all share responsibility for protecting fundamental rights and ensuring equal treatment and equality for all.

The European Commission is implementing its first LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer) Equality Strategy 2020–2025, one of its instruments for stepping up the fight against discrimination and promoting equality. The most recent report on the implementation of this Strategy emphasizes the importance of platforms for dialogue with Member States and a wide range of stakeholders, with particular attention being paid to the most vulnerable groups.

The fight for diversity and against all forms of discrimination, exclusion and violence, alongside respect for human rights, depends on the courageous commitment of human rights defenders, activists, journalists and other media players and on civil society organizations. We recognize the contribution of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in support of civil society organizations working to promote mutual respect and to combat intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes, and in enabling them to form partnerships among themselves. We urge the ODIHR, the other autonomous institutions, the field operations and the Secretariat to step up their co-operation in this regard and to intensify their relations with civil society organizations. It is our joint responsibility to create conditions conducive to safer and more tolerant societies within the framework of our comprehensive approach to security.

In conclusion, we emphatically reaffirm that LGBTIQ persons have the same human rights as all other individuals and that no right may be denied to them.

The candidate countries North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹, Albania¹, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina¹, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area Iceland, as well as San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

1 North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.