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**OSCE Permanent Council No 1191
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EU statement on attacks on Roma settlements in Ukraine

The European Union is concerned by reports of physical attacks on Roma persons in several locations in Ukraine, including the one on 23 June in Lviv city when a 24 years old Roma man was killed and 4 other Roma persons were injured. The EU and its Member States offer sincere condolences to the family of the person killed and wish a swift recovery to those who were injured.

Worryingly, we are seeing increasing numbers of reports of violent physical attacks against members of the Roma community across Ukraine, with six being recorded in the past two months. The EU calls for the relevant Ukrainian authorities to thoroughly and transparently investigate all cases, identify the perpetrators and hold them accountable, and to take effective action to prevent and stop such acts in the future.

We recall that in Copenhagen in 1990, participating States clearly and unequivocally condemned racial and ethnic hatred against anyone, recognizing in this context the particular problems that Roma persons face in this regard. In Athens in 2009, we expressed concerns that Roma and Sinti persons continued to be affected by racism and discrimination and violent manifestations of intolerance against them persisted. Thus, participating States committed to promoting dialogue between Roma and Sinti persons and the wider society in order to raise awareness of the role that intolerance and discrimination can play in threatening social cohesion, stability and security. Moreover, in Maastricht, in 2003, participating States agreed to develop policies and procedures to ensure an effective police response to racially motivated violence against Roma and Sinti persons.

Recalling the statement on this issue of the Chair of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions of 28 June 2018, the EU underlines the importance of public condemnation by political leaders

and civil society of such acts of discrimination. Political leaders need to be at the forefront of efforts to end systematic discrimination and continuous propagation of negative stereotypes targeting Roma and Sinti.

We support the activities of the OSCE Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues in Ukraine and strongly encourage the Ukrainian authorities to make use of ODIHR's role in identification of areas of early intervention and draw on the expertise of the OSCE HCNM in this regard, as prescribed by the relevant OSCE commitments.

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 ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, 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.