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EU statement on the NGO participation in the HDIM

The EU would like to return to the statement by the Delegation of Turkmenistan in the last Permanent Council meeting on 24 September regarding participation in this year's OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

The EU regrets that, as in previous years, the Turkmen delegation did not participate in the HDIM. Any OSCE participating State which decides to abstain from such meetings misses an opportunity to maintain dialogue with civil society and to benefit from its contribution to our common endeavour to uphold the OSCE's human dimension commitments.

The EU remains firmly committed to the open and free participation of non-governmental organisations in Human Dimension meetings organized by the OSCE, as set out in our commitments, in particular in the 1992 Helsinki Document.

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We are convinced that decisions which have been taken with regard to the admission of individuals and organizations to the HDIM are fully in line with these commitments. It should not be up to any of us, the OSCE participating States, to select which NGO representatives are welcome to OSCE meetings and which are not.

The EU highly appreciates the HDIM as a unique platform for dialogue not only among participating States, but particularly also with civil society. We congratulate Ambassador Lenarčič and his dedicated staff at the ODIHR for once again having organized a highly fruitful two-weeks meeting, and we are looking forward to following up on the numerous recommendations which we have heard in Warsaw.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.