



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Permanent Council No. 1283 Vienna, 1 October 2020**

#### **Statement in response to a Current Issue raised by the Russian Federation**

We take note of the statement delivered by the Russian Federation.

We should be mindful that migration is a global challenge that requires a truly global response and solidarity at international and European level. Respecting and protecting the human rights of refugees, displaced persons and migrants has always been at the cornerstone of EU asylum and migration policies and external action. We base our action on a range of principles including non-discrimination, upholding human rights, responsibility, non-refoulement, access to justice and the best interests of the child.

The actions of the EU and its Member States in promoting and protecting the rights of refugees, displaced persons and migrants have been multidimensional and include: protection in humanitarian contexts, access to international protection, combatting trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants, and addressing the root causes that lead or force people to leave their homes, including by eradicating poverty providing opportunities for people in their countries of origin through development policy.

Following the fire that devastated the Moria facility on the island of Lesbos, the European Commission announced that it will establish a dedicated taskforce to improve the situation on the Greek islands in a durable way. The EU and the Greek authorities have been working closely to make the best use of all the relevant

instruments, including the EU funding and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism in order to provide emergency support and improve the immediate conditions for people affected by the fires in Lesvos. The first priority was to ensure shelter and a safe environment to these people.

The EU's comprehensive approach to migration encompasses: deeper cooperation with partner countries; better protected external borders; as well as asylum inside the EU. In this regard, the EU would like to refer back to the European Council conclusions adopted on 18 October 2018 on migration.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country ICELAND, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE and the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

\* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.