



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 1260
Vienna, 27 February 2020**

**Statement in response to the Address by Professor
Emmanuel Decaux, President of the OSCE Court of
Conciliation and Arbitration**

On behalf of those Member States of the European Union who have ratified or acceded to the 1992 Stockholm Convention we thank Professor Emmanuel Decaux, President of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, for coming to the Permanent Council and for his address. We congratulate you on your election as President of the Court. We also congratulate the newly elected members of the Bureau of the Court.

We welcome your introduction on the functioning of the Court, particularly reminding us of the possibilities offered by the Court to contribute to settling disputes by peaceful and diplomatic means in a sustainable and effective manner, in accordance with international law and OSCE commitments.

Although the services of the Court have not yet been called upon, we believe it could be a potentially useful instrument of preventative diplomacy. Its mechanisms of conciliation and arbitration allow for either flexible or clear cut outcomes, and they could provide long-term sustainable solutions to different challenges.

We welcome the fact that 34 OSCE participating States have acceded to or ratified the Stockholm Convention. However, signature and ratification by more states of the Stockholm Convention might contribute to the use of this instrument.

We would be interested to hear concrete proposals from you on how to make the Court better known to the OSCE participating States and how to integrate it into the activities of the OSCE. In this context, we appreciate the Court's recent outreach activity towards academia and the international community on the topic of conciliation in international law.

We thank you again for your address. We wish you every success in your new post. Like you, Mr. President, we hope that one day the Court can contribute to maintaining and promoting peace and security, democracy and human rights in Europe.

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

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