



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1119
Vienna, 17 November 2016**

**AOB – EU reply to the Russian Federation following the EU
Statement on the human rights of migrants**

The concerns expressed in Russia's statement on 27 October were based on reports produced by European Union bodies, such as the Fundamental Rights Agency, or by independent civil society organisations. The Fundamental Rights Agency is an important part of our rule-based, democratic system of checks and balances. It is a public institution, financed by the EU taxpayers, whose role it is to monitor the respect for Human Rights in the EU, and hold our governments and institutions to account. And it is a testament to our commitment to upholding the respect for fundamental rights. Be assured that we take appropriate account of the Agency's reports.

The colossal global challenges that we face require all our attention and all our efforts. No one is perfect, but we pride ourselves on being aware of the issues, of taking them seriously, and on doing all we can to make things better for those who seek protection and a new future in Europe.

Finally, migrants are coming to the EU because they seek a better life and guarantees for a better future. The EU is making huge humanitarian, political and financial efforts to tackle this crisis and we stand ready to discuss this immensely important topic with participating States.