



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council N°1168 Vienna, 14 December 2017

EU Statement on the occasion of Human Rights Day

On 10 December, the European Union and its Member States celebrate Human Rights Day. On this occasion, the High Representative Federica Mogherini made a statement on behalf of the EU, highlighting that the protection of human rights is not only the foundation of our common internal and external policies, but our Union itself. The European Union will continue to reaffirm its commitment to protect and promote the universality of human rights whenever they are violated or questioned, inside or outside its borders.

On the occasion of Human Rights Day 2017, we join the United Nations and many others in calling upon states and people to stand up for human rights. The European Union will keep being at the side of those who stand up for human rights every day: be it civil society organisations or courageous individuals, some facing increasing pressure and threats in many countries, including in the OSCE area. The European Union is determined to continue to protect them, and to promote civil society space.

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 and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, MONACO and SAN MARINO 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.