



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1086 Vienna, 17 May 2018

EU Statement in connection to the shooting of journalist Olivera Lakić

We thank the delegation of Montenegro for bringing the shooting of investigative journalist Olivera Lakić in Podgorica last week to the attention of the Permanent Council. We join the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Harlem Désir and Head of OSCE Mission to Montenegro Maryse Daviet in strongly condemning this attack.

We take note with concern that this is not an isolated incident, neither towards Ms. Lakić, nor other journalists in Montenegro. We also recall the statement by European Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn during his last visit to Podgorica that unresolved attacks on journalists raise serious concerns about the rule of law and that we expect cases to be properly investigated and perpetrators, as well as their masterminds, to be brought to justice.

We join the RFOM in welcoming the public condemnations by the political leadership of Montenegro of this unacceptable act, as well as the investigation that was immediately launched by the authorities. We also agree with him that there must be no impunity and that ensuring the safety of journalists is key to the future of democracy in Montenegro – as it is in all participating States.

We reiterate our call to Montenegro to continue its efforts to achieve further progress in promoting freedom of the media, including safety of journalists, also in close co-operation with the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

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 NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE 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.