



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N° 1172
Vienna, 18 January 2018**

**EU Statement on the methods of work of the Permanent
Council in 2018**

The EU and its Member States thank the Italian Chairmanship-in-Office for its invitation to exchange views on the working methods of the OSCE Permanent Council within the existing rules of procedure. We believe the PC to be the right framework within our organization to have a meaningful, result-oriented political dialogue and we call on everyone to engage in it in good faith.

We encourage the CiO to look into ways in which we could make better use of Permanent Council meetings. In particular, we would welcome shorter meetings with focused agendas, reflecting the core business of our organization.

The weekly opportunity of discussing current issues is a key component of our work. We welcome the work that Italy is doing to improve advance notice of current issues and we suggest that participating States intending to raise current issues inform in advance affected States to improve their ability to respond. As for substance, "Current issues" should focus on topical current events, rather than commenting historic facts.

While recognizing the scheduling difficulties with standard reports to the Permanent Council, we would encourage the CiO to limit the number of guest speakers per our weekly encounter.

In addition, we reiterate the view that all reports should be circulated well in advance, and that the presentations and exchanges of views should be limited to key findings and the main elements.

We encourage the Chair to make full use of its prerogatives and existing formats to generate flexible discussions beyond the PC, such as informal ambassadorial

meetings on specific issues, retreats, Informal Working Groups, reflection groups, and the like, bearing in mind that we are not looking for more meetings, we are looking for more productive meetings.

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 country ICELAND, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA 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.