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## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No 1100 Vienna, 12 May 2016

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#### EU Statement on Commemorating the deportation of the Crimean Tatars

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18 May marks the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of a tragic chapter in the history of the Crimean Tatars: the deportation of at least 230,000 Crimean Tatars from their homeland.

Today, since the illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula by the Russian Federation, the Crimean Tatar community is facing severe restrictions on their human rights and fundamental freedoms, forcing thousands of Crimean Tatars to leave Crimea. Their human rights and fundamental freedoms must be protected. As the Crimean Tatars prepare to commemorate the anniversary of the deportation, we recall the concerns we raised one year ago when commemorations were prohibited and call for their right to freedom of assembly, expression and association to be fully respected.

The European Union reiterates its firm position that international human rights actors must be provided with full, free, unconditional and unrestricted access to the whole territory of Ukraine, including Crimea and Sevastopol.

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

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.