

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1174th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

1 February 2018

On the amendments to the Audiovisual Code of the Republic of Moldova

The European Union has taken note of the recent amendments to the Audiovisual Code of the Republic of Moldova.

The European Union recognizes that disinformation and propaganda present numerous challenges and have considerable negative effects. The actions taken to face up to these challenges should be necessary, measured and in compliance with international law, if they are not to restrict freedom of the media or obstruct access to information guaranteed through OSCE commitments.

We also stress the need to adopt the new Audiovisual Code as quickly as possible, bearing in mind the expertise provided by international partners. We welcome the intention of the authorities in the Republic of Moldova to submit the final draft version of the new Audiovisual Code for review by the Venice Commission.

Within the framework of the Association Agreement, the EU pays great heed to the human rights situation, including press freedom, and to legislative developments in the Republic of Moldova.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.