



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1190
Vienna, 21 June 2018**

**EU statement on the report by the OSCE Project
Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Ambassador Vaidotas Verba**

The European Union warmly welcomes Ambassador Vaidotas Verba back to the Permanent Council. We thank you for your remarks and for the detailed report. We thank you for submitting it well in advance of today's Permanent Council. We also welcome today's extension of the PCU's mandate.

We commend the PCU and its staff for their important work in support of Ukraine's reform process and we reiterate our support for the PCU's thematic programmes. In particular, we reiterate our support for the PCU's efforts on democratisation and good governance, rule of law and human rights, media freedom, civil society development, anti-corruption and comprehensive mine action.

The PCU has in the past six months once again clearly demonstrated its value added and we are pleased to hear that the strategic planning exercise was completed during the reporting period. We are looking forward to hearing more about it and follow the implementation of the plan. We strongly support the two main objectives as well as its sub-objectives. We value all of the activities carried out by the PCU during the past reporting period. This includes the PCU's promotion of dialogue and its focus on supporting dialogues in Uzhhorod and Odesa between the Ministry of Education and representatives of persons belonging to national minorities on language policy under the 2017 Law on Education. It also includes the launching in April of the "School of Ethical Journalism," the continued focus on civil society and elections, and the continued strengthening of legal and human rights education in Ukraine. We are looking forward to seeing the action plan on human rights education being launched later this year. Finally we welcome the PCUs contribution to sustainable environmental risk monitoring and rehabilitation efforts as well as its contribution to improving chemical safety and security.

We welcome the good level of cooperation between the PCU and the Ukrainian government, international organisations and Ukrainian civil society. For instance, we warmly welcome the conference organized by the PCU on policy and legislative responses to threats to national critical infrastructure. We encourage the Ukrainian government to fully draw on the PCU's expertise and potential. We also stress the importance of continued close coordination between the PCU, and the SMM and the OSCEs autonomous institutions as well as with other international actors to achieve the greatest possible impact on the ground in Ukraine.

Mine action remains a key concern for the EU and we would like to know if you see any possible way to move forward in this field.

We note that the Office for Internal Oversight conducted an audit visit in March and we are looking forward to reading the report when it comes out.

We thank Ambassador Vaidotas Verba once again for his report and underline that the PCU's continued work to ensure coherence between its programme activities and OSCE's principles and commitments is highly appreciated. We wish the Project Coordinator and his Office all the best for the future.

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, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA 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.