



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1197  
Vienna, 11 October 2018**

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**EU statement in reply to the AOB issue raised by Bulgaria**

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We would like to express our deep condolences to the family and friends of Viktoria Marinova in this difficult moment. The EU condemns this heinous crime. We expect that those responsible for this horrific murder are immediately brought to justice and that it is determined whether or not this attack was linked to the journalistic activity of Ms. Marinova. We welcome the swift reaction and the intensive efforts of the Bulgarian authorities that demonstrated the resolve to bring justice for such a despicable act.

We appreciate that from the very beginning the authorities have been working on all possible scenarios without excluding any of them. In this respect, we recall the EU position on media freedom and safety of journalists expressed many times at OSCE and which remains unchanged.

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 LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members 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, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.