



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1053
Vienna, 21 May 2015**

**EU Statement on commemorating the deportation of the
Crimean Tatars**

The deportation of the Crimean Tatars which took place 71 years ago was a tragic watershed in their history. We regret that the public commemoration in Crimea of this anniversary was prohibited, as it was last year. This is but the most recent example of the restrictions and intimidation imposed by the Russian Federation upon the Crimean Tatars.

The EU has consistently reiterated its concern about the deteriorating human rights situation on the peninsula since the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014, including as regards the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The freedoms of movement, expression and media must be respected. International human rights actors must be provided with full, free and unrestricted access to the whole territory of Ukraine, including Crimea and Sevastopol.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ 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 and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.