



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1228

Vienna, 16 May 2019

EU Statement on the Recent Violent Protests in Albania

The European Union and its Member States condemn the violence that took place during the protests on 11 May in Tirana which caused injuries and damaged property.

We condemn the threats and attempted intimidation directed at the Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania. We thank the Government of Albania for its quick response and protection of the residence.

The right to peacefully assemble and protest is a fundamental prerequisite of a democratic state. Violence and the intimidation of international organizations' officials are unacceptable. There is no place for such action in a modern democracy.

We call on all political leaders of the country to publicly condemn those actions and to take any necessary measures to prevent and stop further violence in all its forms. We also call on police to act with restraint in response to the protests.

Differing political points of view need to be handled through debate and dialogue. We continue to urge all sides to engage in a constructive dialogue aimed at ending the current political impasse.

The Candidate Countries NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and SERBIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, the EFTA country ICELAND, member of the European Economic Area, as well as GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.