



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council N°1168 Vienna, 14 December 2017

EU Statement on Bans of LGBTI Events in Turkey

We are concerned about a number of recent decisions by relevant authorities in Turkey to ban LGBTI events, including film screenings, exhibitions and other public activities. Such decisions have been taken both in Ankara, where LGBTI events have been banned for an indefinite period of time, and in Istanbul and other cities.

This is in violation of the commitments made by all participating States, including Turkey, in the Helsinki Final Act and onwards, to respect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedoms of expression and opinion and of association and peaceful assembly. The assumption that the activities of certain organizations are not supported by some segments of society is not a legitimate reason to violate human rights.

We strongly support the freedom and rights of all individuals, including LGBTI persons, to assemble peacefully and to exercise their freedom of expression.

We expect the Turkish government to clarify the matter as soon as possible and to urgently restore the full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people, in conformity with its international obligations and OSCE commitments.

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 and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as 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.