



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1107
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EU statement on the report by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Amb. Vaidotas Verba

The European Union warmly welcomes Ambassador Vaidotas Verba back to the Permanent Council. We thank you for your remarks and for a detailed report.

We commend the PCU and its staff for their important work in support of Ukraine's reform process. We welcome the launch of new programmatic initiatives in response to increasing demand and against the background of the increase in the PCU's budget. In particular, we reiterate our support for PCU efforts on democratisation and good governance, rule of law and human rights, media freedom, civil society development, anti-corruption, and strengthening the judiciary. In this regard, we support the continuation of regional forums putting greater emphasis on follow-up smaller scale dialogues as well as focused training for dialogue facilitators as part of the PCU's revised dialogue project. We also welcome the mission's increased focus on result-based management by defining clearer areas of responsibility and a streamlining of objectives.

We welcome the good level of cooperation between the PCU and the Ukrainian government, authorities and civil society. For instance, we warmly welcome the PCU's strong outputs in assisting the Constitutional Court and the Central Election Commission. We encourage the Ukrainian government to fully draw on the PCU's expertise and potential. We also stress the importance of close cooperation and 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.

Our position on the importance of effective evaluation, in particular at outcome level, is well known. We welcome the introduction of a professional evaluation officer to strengthen the mission's evaluation practices. We would welcome if Ambassador Verba could elaborate further on efforts undertaken in this area.

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 and LIECHTENSTEIN, 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.