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**ENGLISH** only



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

## OSCE Permanent Council No. 1279 Vienna, 3 September 2020

## EU Statement on the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War

We are an open society and as such we consider that also historical topics should be addressed in an open and mature manner. Interpreting historical events is the task of researchers and academics. As governments, we merely strive to guarantee that research can be carried out in an open and free environment. We do not accept politicized attempts to rewrite history. The Permanent Council is not the proper place to discuss historical topics.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ALBANIA\*, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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