



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 899 Vienna, 26 January 2012

#### **EU statement on the International Holocaust Memorial Day**

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The EU would like to thank the Ambassador of Israel Aviv Shir-On for the invitation to the opening of the exhibition "Visa for Life", to mark the International Holocaust Memorial Day and the Centennial Marking of the Birth of Raoul Wallenberg.

Tomorrow the International Holocaust Memorial Day will be commemorated to honour the memory of all Holocaust victims. This tragic period in our history must not be forgotten and its lessons must be handed over to future generations.

This year we also mark the centennial of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of tens of thousands of Jews in Hungary during the later stages of World War II. He remains a symbolic figure and an inspiration for human rights defenders today.

The European Union firmly condemns any attempts to deny, trivialise or minimise the Holocaust, war crimes and crimes against humanity as well as all manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia.

The acceding country CROATIA\*, the candidate countries THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

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