



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1166  
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**EU Statement on the verdict in the case of Jadranko Prlić et al. of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia**

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The EU takes note of the ICTY's final appeal judgement rendered on 29 November 2017 in the case of Jadranko Prlić, Bruno Stojić, Slobodan Praljak, Milivoj Petković, Valentin Ćorić, and Berislav Pušić who were originally convicted of crimes against humanity, violations of the laws or customs of war, and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, with respect to events occurring between 1992 and 1994 in eight municipalities and five detention camps in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our sympathies are always with the victims and their loved ones.

While we do not comment on individual judgements, we fully respect decisions of the ICTY, an independent body established by the UN Security Council, and encourage others to do likewise.

The EU continues to be a strong supporter of international criminal justice, whose mission is to promote the rule of law, combat impunity and maintain international peace and security. We call on all states to cooperate with the ICTY until the end of 2017, and with its successor Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, in full respect of their obligations as contained in the relevant Security Council resolutions. Delivering justice and holding perpetrators of crimes to account is essential. Impunity can never be accepted.

The European Union trusts that all the countries in the region are determined and committed to work towards lasting peace, reconciliation, regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations. We expect all political leaders in the region to work towards these goals.

We recall with appreciation last week's dignified statement by Bosnia Herzegovina in the case of Ratko Mladic. In contrast we took note with consternation of the

statement made by the Russian Federation on the same occasion putting into question the legitimacy and professionalism of ICTY. We pay tribute to the work of the Tribunal, which we recall was founded under the resolution 827(1993) of UN Security Council, and call on all participating States to respect its critical work in promoting regional reconciliation. We are committed to the fight against impunity and to the independent and impartial justice system everywhere and call on all participating States to fully cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunals.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country LIECHTENSTEIN, member 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 and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.