



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1266 Vienna, 7 May 2020

EU Statement on the occasion of Europe Day

Mr. Chairman, on 9 May, Europe Day, Europeans celebrate peace and security in Europe. On this day in 1950 Robert Schuman in his famous speech launched a visionary project of European nations living side by side in peace and prosperity, making the very idea of war between them unthinkable. He gave this speech against the backdrop of two world wars in which the countries of what is now the OSCE area were involved and paid a huge price in lives lost and destruction. That was the beginning of what is now the European Union. Seventy years later we can be proud of what has been achieved: long lasting peace, improved security, intense political and economic exchanges, solidarity, social cohesion, sharing of cultures and ideas.

The European Union is built on the solid foundations of the shared values of freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law. These same values are at the heart of the OSCE concept of comprehensive and cooperative security and the EU and its Member States make a significant contribution to the vitality and relevance of the OSCE. The EU and its Member States make up half of the OSCE membership and together contribute 60 per cent of the unified budget and the SMM budget. The EU speaks with one voice in the OSCE and many participating States regularly align with EU statements and positions.

While much progress has been achieved in Europe over the past decades, we cannot forget that peace is still not a reality on the whole of the European continent as we are reminded at the meetings of the Permanent Council.

In our globalized and rapidly changing world, the shared foundational values of the EU are more relevant than ever for our citizens, our partners and all those who want to work cooperatively to strengthen rules-based multilateralism, peace and security, sustainable development, free and fair trade, human rights and democracy.

The EU is continually adapting to, and taking on, new challenges as they appear. What is constant is the determination that our project will continue to be a force for good in the world. The EU will continue to work steadfastly in the OSCE, and elsewhere, to uphold its founding values and to share the security benefits that derive from peace, democracy and human rights on the European continent and beyond to the benefit of all our citizens.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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