



EUROPEAN UNION

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**OSCE Permanent Council No. 1213
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EU Statement on the Report by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Ambassador Henrik Villadsen

The European Union warmly welcomes Ambassador Henrik Villadsen to the Permanent Council. As this is your first appearance in the PC in your current capacity, allow me to congratulate you on your recent appointment. We thank you for your remarks and for the detailed report and we thank you and your team for submitting it well in advance of today's Permanent Council.

The EU remains firm in its support of the PCU. The PCU has in the past six months once again clearly demonstrated its value added in a wide range of areas and we commend you and your staff for your important work in support of Ukraine's reform process.

Your efforts to improve the media landscape and to further strengthen the role of Ukraine's civil society are crucial. These areas are fundamental pillars of any open, democratic society and both play an important underpinning role during free, fair and democratic elections. We are therefore looking forward to following these areas of your work in the coming months given upcoming elections in Ukraine. In this context we also support your work to strengthen cybersecurity and improving transparency of electoral administration in Ukraine.

We are further looking forward to following the launch in 2019 of the dialogue tools to promote implementation of public administration reforms. We are also interested in learning more about the introduction of public consultations, which we see as key to good governance and we welcome your work in this regard.

The EU continues to support your work to strengthen legal and human rights education in Ukraine. It is key for any reform process.

We appreciate the priority you put on humanitarian mine action and look forward to hearing from you in the future about the concrete actions that will be taken by your office in the context of the implementation of the new legislation.

We welcome the PCU's support to the Police and Ministry of Interior on combatting domestic violence, including through training for officers and emergency call operators. We also appreciate the PCU's work on the Women, Peace and Security agenda and efforts to mitigate the risk of violence within conflict affected families and communities.

Finally we welcome the PCU's contribution to sustainable environmental risk monitoring and rehabilitation efforts as well as its contribution to improving chemical safety and security.

We encourage the Ukrainian government to fully draw on the PCU's expertise and potential. We also stress the importance of continued close coordination between the PCU, the SMM and the OSCE autonomous institutions as well as with other international actors to achieve the greatest possible impact on the ground in Ukraine. We would appreciate it if you could elaborate more on these efforts.

We thank Ambassador Villadsen 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, 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.