



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council N° 1185  
Vienna, 10 May 2018**

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**EU Statement in response to the current issue raised by  
Tajikistan**

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The European Union thanks the Government of Tajikistan for taking the initiative to organise this useful conference on CT/VERLT that took place in Dushanbe on 3-4 May, and which was co-organised by the EU, OSCE and UN. The European Union is a proud supporter of multilateralism, and strongly supports the efforts of the OSCE and the United Nations to prevent violent extremism and combat terrorism. Terrorism is a global threat and the international community needs to work together to protect our citizens.

The conference provided a valuable opportunity to discuss our common efforts to combat terrorism in the region, and to highlight the importance of upholding international standards, including the respect for the rule of law and human rights. Addressing religious intolerance, racism and xenophobia were also part of the broader picture. The high-level EU Delegation that took part in the conference, also much appreciated the opportunity to visit the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, including the Border Management Staff College and border management training activities, and to hold several bilateral meetings with the Tajik hosts.

Over the past years, the European Union has been strengthening its engagement and partnership with Central Asia and the region, not least to promote our common security interests. It is very encouraging to see a renewed interest for regional cooperation in Central Asia and a willingness to jointly tackle common challenges. We are pleased to support this process and to share our own experience. This enhanced engagement is also reflected in our work towards new partnership and cooperation agreements with countries in the region.

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, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE and GEORGIA 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.