



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1253 Vienna, 19 December 2019

EU Statement on the Report by the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine

1. The European Union warmly welcomes Ambassador Henrik Villadsen to the Permanent Council. We thank you for your report and for all the work that your mission has carried out since you visited the Permanent Council in June. Your support of the reform process in Ukraine is of high importance. We regret that attempts at progress are sometimes overshadowed by the fact that there is an ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine, which is a consequence of acts of aggression by the Russian armed forces. The EU reiterates its firm support for the work of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.
2. The EU welcomes the PCU's continued work within the field of democratization and good governance. We value your ambition to develop tools in order to facilitate dialogue between the Ukrainian Government, civil society and communities and your training in conflict sensitivity and conflict management for community representatives and civil servants.
3. It is encouraging to hear about your work in improving the legislative framework for civil society and introducing confidence-building measures among civil society organizations and authorities, as a vital civil society is one of the fundamental pillars of any open and democratic state.
4. The EU is pleased to hear about how you support constitutional and judicial reforms and how you conduct training on rule of law and human rights in Ukraine, directed towards various stakeholders including MPs, judges and other

legal professionals. We also welcome your tailored training on gender aspects in the justice sector, as this is a way to give legal professionals the tools to apply a gender-sensitive approach to their work.

5. We remain concerned about the threats from transnational crime and therefore support your work within areas such as establishing advance passenger information systems and criminal justice reforms.
6. The EU welcomes your actions to combat domestic violence, including your training of emergency call operators, police officers, social workers and psychologists. We also congratulate you for the successful organisation, in conjunction with the OSCE Secretariat's Gender Section, of the international conference on best national and international approaches in responding to domestic violence.
7. It is a troublesome fact that eastern Ukraine is one of the most heavily mined regions in the world. Therefore, while the EU stands ready to further increase its support in demining, we look favourably upon your support to the work on amending the Mine Action Law and workshops and round tables held on this matter.
8. The EU highly appreciates the PCU's outreach activities, as well as efforts to promote gender mainstreaming in all programming areas, policies and procedures.
9. We encourage the Ukrainian government to fully draw on the PCU's expertise and potential. We underline again 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.
10. We would like to hear from you, Ambassador Villadsen, what areas the PCU intends to focus on for the upcoming six months.

11. The EU thanks Ambassador Villadsen once again for his report. We underline that the PCU's continued efforts to ensure coherence between its programme activities and OSCE's principles and commitments are highly appreciated. We wish the Project Coordinator and his team all the best in their future work.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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