



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1563 Vienna, 7 May 2026

EU Statement on Europe Day

On 9 May, we celebrate Europe Day - a moment to reflect on the vision that shaped the European Union. Seventy-six years ago, the Schuman Declaration set in motion an unprecedented project that transformed a war-torn continent into a community built on shared values—peace, freedom, democracy, equality, and the rule of law. The European Union stands as a testament to what can be achieved when nations choose cooperation over conflict and solidarity over division.

Yet today, in a world of rising conflicts, economic uncertainty, and growing authoritarianism, we must defend these values more vigorously than ever—at home and abroad. Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine is a flagrant violation of international law and the principles of Helsinki Final Act. It undermines the very foundations of the European security order. The European Union stands firm in its support for Ukraine, in defending international law, OSCE principles and commitments, and our security. Our solidarity is unwavering—because when one of us is targeted, all of us are affected.

In response to today’s challenges, the EU is taking decisive action to defend its citizens, its democracy, and its values. From strengthening European defence cooperation to countering hybrid threats and economic coercion, we are ensuring Europe remains a pillar of stability.

Beyond our borders, the EU is forging strong, fair partnerships to address global challenges, from climate change to digital transformation. We invest in sustainable infrastructure, fostering mutual prosperity and resilience. We remain a reliable partner—for open economies, for security through our missions and operations, and for those in need through humanitarian assistance.

A stable and secure neighbourhood is essential to Europe's own security. We therefore continue to invest in peace, democratic reform, and resilience across our region. The OSCE remains a key platform for this engagement, reinforcing multilateralism and the rules-based order.

Europe Day is more than a celebration—it is a reaffirmation of our choice to build peace through cooperation, unity through diversity, and strength through solidarity. The EU will continue to work tirelessly, also within the OSCE and beyond, to uphold our founding values and share the benefits of peace, democracy, and human rights with all our citizens and partners.

Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.