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**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1563rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 May 2026

In response to the current issue on the dangers of Holocaust distortion and denial

The European Union thanks the United States of America for drawing the Permanent Council's attention to the dangers of Holocaust distortion and denial, on the eve of the anniversary of the end of the Second World War, an event which also brought the Holocaust to an end.

As an international partner of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the European Union is committed to combating all forms of anti-Semitism, including attempts to legitimize, justify, trivialize or deny the Holocaust. The European institutions and EU Member States are countering these phenomena by implementing the EU Anti-Racism Strategy (adopted in 2026) and the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life (adopted in 2021), and also through national strategies and action plans, not to mention our legislation on digital services, which seeks to limit the spread of illegal content online, including content inciting hatred or violence and attempts to distort the memory of the Holocaust.

While 80 years have passed since Nazi leaders were tried in Nuremberg, the dangers of Holocaust denial and distortion persist, alongside other forms of manipulation of historical memory for propaganda purposes. In this regard, the European Union strongly condemns Russia's attempts to justify its war of aggression against Ukraine by deceptively invoking the fight against Nazism. We likewise condemn the inaccurate and inappropriate use of the term "denazification". Such distortion erodes our understanding of the Holocaust, is an insult to the memory of the victims and survivors, and undermines democratic principles.

With fewer than 200,000 Holocaust survivors left to bear witness to the horrors they endured, these developments serve as a reminder not only of our duty to remember, but also of our duty to remain vigilant and to take the most resolute action against all forms of anti-Semitism, hatred and discrimination.

We likewise support the commitments and activities developed by the OSCE and its autonomous institutions over the years with regard to combating anti-Semitism, and indeed all forms of intolerance and discrimination, as part of the promotion of the rule of law and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In that regard, we commend the work of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to monitor hate crimes, and the development of various practical tools for tackling that scourge.

We also commend the priority given by the Swiss Chairmanship to countering intolerance and discrimination, and welcome the conference on combating anti-Semitism in the OSCE area held in St. Gallen in February 2026.

The European Union reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that the memory of the Holocaust and all its victims will never be forgotten or distorted, that it will continue to live on in us and that we, in turn, will pass it on, so that we can build a world of peace and of respect for everyone and be able to say together: “Never again.”

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