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**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1579th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 October 2026

On the presentation of the 2027 Unified Budget Proposal

The Member States of the European Union express their appreciation to you, Mr. Secretary General, for your presentation of the Unified Budget Proposal for 2027. The European Union and its Member States contribute almost 60 per cent of the Unified Budget; we therefore attach the utmost importance to the swift adoption of the Unified Budget for 2027.

While we consider it legitimate to take inflation into account in the budget proposal for 2027, we would point out that the United Nations salary scale is due to be reviewed before the end of the year.

We welcome the proposal for a zero real growth budget, although the details will need to be discussed further. This proposal offers a welcome stabilization after the adoption of the 2026 Unified Budget, involving an 11 per cent reduction compared with the 2021 budget, including the abolition of 405 posts in total.

At the same time, we remain committed to taking as rigorous an approach as possible to budgetary discipline. We agree that reforms are necessary for the OSCE to be able to operate efficiently and deliver tangible results. However, we would point out that these reforms must be properly prepared, following sufficient consultation.

In this regard, the Member States of the European Union are not convinced of the merits of the three-pillar restructuring proposed by the Secretariat and wonder about the implications of this proposal for the quality of the projects implemented by the Organization. We believe that the added value of this new structure in terms of efficiency, co-ordination and decision-making needs to be demonstrated more clearly, while maintaining clearly defined lines of responsibility and accountability.

We reiterate the long-standing position of the Member States of the European Union that any reform must preserve the Organization's capacity to act on the ground, whether in relation to missions and presences, autonomous institutions or the Secretariat. The credibility of our Organization is at stake. We emphasize that the Organization must have sufficient resources to overcome the immense challenges caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, a war which has defied the principles of the Helsinki Final Act with grave consequences for the stability of the entire OSCE area and that of the Organization as a whole.

In order to fulfil its security mandate, the OSCE, under the auspices of the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Secretary General, must be able to rely on the pivotal role played by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), to which the Member States of the European Union remain deeply committed. We believe that a strong CPC, equipped with the necessary capabilities, remains vital for the Organization's operational effectiveness, particularly in terms of providing support to the field operations, early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management. Any reform should preserve its ability to carry out these essential functions in full.

We were pleased to note that the Gender Issues Programme remains within the Office of the Secretary General, thereby enabling cross-cutting monitoring of this priority. We should also like to gain a better understanding of the added value of the proposed transfers of certain units, including the Programming and Evaluation Support Unit, along with their impact on the Secretariat's operational capabilities.

We welcome the efforts to strengthen oversight and audit functions through the Office of Internal Oversight. We take note of the clarification of the respective roles of the Records Management Unit and the Documentation Centre in Prague. In this regard, we emphasize the importance of preserving the Documentation Centre's capacity to fulfil its mandate effectively, through adequate human and financial resources.

We are ready to begin discussions on the 2027 Unified Budget in a constructive spirit. We thank you, Mr. Secretary General, and all the Fund Managers for your dedication to the good of the Organization and its field operations for a just and lasting peace among the OSCE community.

I thank you and kindly ask the Chairmanship to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Albania, Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.