



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1152
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EU statement on the report by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Ambassador Vaidotas Verba

The European Union warmly welcomes Ambassador Vaidotas Verba back to the Permanent Council. We thank you for your remarks and for a detailed report. We welcome recent the extension of the PCU's mandate. We also thank Ambassador Verba for his active participation in the FSC this year, helping to further raise the profile of the important impact of field missions in the politico-military dimension.

We commend the PCU and its staff for their important work in support of Ukraine's reform process and we reiterate our support for the PCU's thematic programmes. In particular, we reiterate our support for the PCU's efforts on democratisation and good governance, rule of law and human rights, media freedom, civil society development, anti-corruption and comprehensive mine action.

The PCU has in the past six months once again clearly demonstrated its value added. This includes promoting the passage of a mine action law, supporting the scale-up of Ukraine's Information Management System for Mine Action, training police officials across the country, and assisting the drafting of legislation on anti-corruption and human trafficking. We also value the PCU's promotion of dialogue through online training courses as well as in-person training and dialogue events, such as the forum on "Reconstruction through Dialogue" in Mariupol on 23 May, which brought together more than 200 participants from civil society as well as local and national government structures.

We welcome the good level of cooperation between the PCU and the Ukrainian government, international organisations and Ukrainian civil society. For instance, we warmly welcome the PCU's organization of a conference in February on the safety of journalists together with the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the Ukrainian non-governmental Institute for Mass Information. We encourage the Ukrainian government to fully draw on the PCU's expertise and potential. We also stress the importance of continued close coordination between the PCU, and the SMM and the OSCEs autonomous institutions as well as with other international actors to achieve the greatest possible impact on the ground in Ukraine.

Our position on the importance of effective evaluation, in particular at outcome level, is well known. We welcome the increased dedication to robust project evaluation practices. We would welcome if Ambassador Verba could elaborate further on efforts undertaken in this area.

We thank Ambassador Vaidotas Verba once again for his report and underline that the PCU's continued work to ensure coherence between its programme activities and OSCE's principles and commitments is highly appreciated. We wish the Project Coordinator and his Office all the best for the future.

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, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO 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.