

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1135th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

2 March 2017

So-called constitutional referendum in Nagorno-Karabakh

The European Union does not recognize the “constitutional referendum” held in Nagorno-Karabakh on 20 February 2017. It recalls that it does not recognize the legal and constitutional framework governing it. The result of the “referendum” can have no effect on the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh or on the negotiation process.

The European Union reaffirms its full support for the Minsk Group and for the work carried out by its Co-Chairmen and by the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict. It calls on the parties to refrain from any use of force and to respect the ceasefire.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,¹ Montenegro,¹ Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.