



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

### **OSCE Permanent Council No. 1227 Vienna, 9 May 2019**

#### **EU Statement on the occasion of Europe Day**

Mr. Chairman, today is Europe Day, when every year, Europeans celebrate peace and unity in Europe. 9 May marks the anniversary of the historic Schuman declaration which, in 1950, launched an ambitious and remarkable project of European nations living side by side in peace and prosperity, making war between them unthinkable. That was the beginning of what is now the European Union. 69 years later, we can be proud of what we have progressively built: long lasting peace, improved security, intense political and economic exchanges, solidarity, social cohesion by harmonizing legislations in the interest of all. Above all, millions of citizens have learned to share their cultures and ideas, and enjoy an unprecedented freedom of movement.

The European Union is built on the strong foundations of the shared values of freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Such values strongly resonate with the OSCE hallmark concept of comprehensive and cooperative security. Inspired by these values and by a sense of common purpose, the EU and its Member States make a strong contribution to the relevance and the vitality of the OSCE. The EU and its Member States make up half of the OSCE membership and together contribute 70 per cent of the unified budget and of the SMM budget. For over two decades the EU has been speaking with one voice in the OSCE and a significant number of participating States regularly align themselves with EU statements and positions.

In the current global environment the EU's shared values are more relevant than

ever for our citizens, partners and all those who want to work in a cooperative way to strengthen multilateralism, peace and security, sustainable development, free and fair trade, human rights and democracy.

While so much progress has been achieved in Europe in the past decades, we cannot forget that peace is still not a reality on the whole of the European continent, as we are reminded at every meeting of the Permanent Council.

As the EU aims to realize the values we believe in and strengthen our partnerships globally, our friends look to us as a principled, reliable, consistent and cooperative partner for peace and human development. In this regard, the EU and its member states continue to provide over half of the official development assistance globally.

The EU is a living project, adapting to and taking on new challenges with each passing year. We are determined that our project should continue to be a force for good in the world. The EU will continue to work tirelessly in the OSCE and elsewhere to uphold its founding values, to share the security benefits that derive from peace, democracy and human rights, on the European continent and beyond, to the advantage of all our citizens.

The Candidate Countries NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.