



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No 1061 Vienna, 2 July 2015

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#### EU Statement on the Right to Peaceful Assembly in Armenia

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The European Union has followed events in Yerevan over the last week very closely, as people have protested against an increase in electricity tariffs. We welcome the generally calm handling of the demonstrations in recent days, and the efforts by both police and protestors to keep the demonstrations peaceful.

At the same time, ODIHR Director Michael Link and OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic both expressed their concern about the force used to disperse the initial protest on the morning of 23 June, including reports of excessive use of force against journalists, amongst others and including by unidentified plain clothes security officials. We share these concerns and support their calls, as also made by the EU Delegation in Yerevan earlier this week, for all allegations of excessive force to be impartially and promptly investigated and appropriate action taken. We look forward to the results of these investigations as promised by the Armenian authorities.

We call on all sides to continue to act responsibly and calmly.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO\*, ICELAND+ and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE align themselves with this statement.

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

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.