

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE
1160th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 October 2017

**On the situation of
lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in Russia**

The European Union regrets that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people are still victims of violence, discrimination and human rights violations in several countries around the world. It remains mobilized so that these violations cease.

It continues to monitor carefully the situation of LGBTI persons in Chechnya. As we pointed out in the Council of Europe last week, we invite the authorities of the Russian Federation to keep us informed of the state of play of the inquiry that was launched several months earlier at the federal level.

We take note of the efforts of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Tatiana Moskalkova, to shed light on the human rights violations in Chechnya. We reiterate, however, our call for full clarification of allegations of arrest, unlawful detention, torture and murder of persons in Chechnya on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.

It is up to the Russian authorities to do everything possible to guarantee the safety of all their citizens without exceptions, to ensure the rehabilitation of the victims and to bring those responsible to justice.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area Norway, as well as Ukraine, San Marino and Canada, align themselves with this statement.

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