



PC.DEL/1283/17  
6 October 2017

ENGLISH only

**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1159  
Vienna, 5 October 2017**

---

**EU Statement in response to the Report by the Director of  
the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
(ODIHR) on the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

**-Second Intervention-**

---

In reaction to some of the critical voices we have heard today we, the EU, would like to reiterate that despite obvious challenges the 2017 HDIM was a success. While we acknowledge that the measures implemented by ODIHR and the Chairmanship contributed to a respectful and orderly conduct of HDIM 2017, we also firmly believe that the open and free participation of civil society in the human dimension meetings, as set out in our commitments, ie. in the Helsinki Document 1992, needs to be preserved. The frank exchange with a vibrant civil society, including listening to critical voices, is precisely the purpose of the HDIM and is an integral part of a democracy.