



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 999 Vienna, 8 May 2014

EU Statement Following the Appointment of the New Director of ODIHR

The European Union would like to take this opportunity to once again express our deep gratitude to Ambassador Lenarčič, for his excellent performance and the dedicated service he has provided to the OSCE as the Director of ODIHR over the last six years. ODIHR remains an enormous asset available to the participating States and the EU attaches great importance to its work. We commend Ambassador Lenarčič for his excellent stewardship of this institution.

We welcome the appointment of Mr Michael Link as the new Director of ODIHR. He assumes this position during a period when our organisation is facing significant challenges, and when the expert, professional and independent role that ODIHR exercises will remain extremely important. We wish Mr Link every success and want to assure him that he can count on our full support.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, MONACO and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia 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.