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## **EUROPEAN UNION**

## OSCE Permanent Council No.1476 Vienna, 30 May 2024

## EU Statement on provocations on the EU border between Estonia and Russia

- Madam Chair, I am delivering the statement issued on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024 by the EU High Representative, Josep Borrell, on the incident on the border with Estonia:
- "On Thursday (23<sup>rd</sup> May) early morning, Russian border guards unilaterally removed light buoys placed by Estonia on the Narva River to demarcate the border with Russia.
- 3. The European Union has been monitoring the situation closely from the start in cooperation and solidarity with Estonia and other Member States.
- 4. This border incident is part of a broader pattern of provocative behaviour and hybrid actions by Russia, including on its maritime and land borders in the Baltic Sea region.
- 5. Such actions are unacceptable. The European Union expects an explanation by Russia about the removal of the buoys, and their immediate return."
- 6. I thank you, madam Chair.

The Candidate Countries NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ALBANIA\*, UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA\*, and GEORGIA, the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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