



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No 1062 Vienna, 16 July 2015

EU statement on the Commemoration of Srebrenica

On 11 July, we commemorated the genocide that took place in Srebrenica 20 years ago. This heinous crime left deep scars in Bosnia and Herzegovina and across the European continent. We reject any denial or relativisation of the genocide.

On that day, we mourned the loss of more than eight thousand victims and honoured the memory of those still missing. The European Union stands by their relatives in their grief. And we confirm our strong commitment to help bring the perpetrators to justice. European integration starts with justice. It continues with reconciliation between nations and within Bosnia and Herzegovina, and joint work on a common project of peace, security and prosperity.

We salute all the leaders of South East Europe who work for reconciliation and integration, who are willing to face harsh historical truths, accept their own responsibility and who reach out to each other across dividing lines.

We welcomed the decision of Prime Minister Vučić of the Republic of Serbia to attend the commemoration. We regret the fact that the Prime Minister was forced to leave the commemoration. This incident shows that we all need to redouble our efforts to heal the wounds of the past and pursue true and lasting reconciliation across the whole of the Western Balkans region.

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 countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ANDORRA 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.