



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1001 Vienna, 22 May 2014

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#### **EU Statement on the Floods in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia**

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The European Union and its Member States express their sympathy and solidarity with Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia with respect to the recent flooding. We also express our condolences to the families of the deceased.

In response to the situation, we began providing immediate assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism which has been activated upon the request of the countries concerned.

A total of 19 EU Member States offered assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, such as motor boats, helicopters and high-capacity pumps and deployed nearly 400 relief workers to the affected countries. Two EU Civil Protection teams were deployed over the weekend to Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to help with the coordination of relief efforts.

We also welcome the significant amount of assistance and support civil society groups in our Member States are offering as acts of solidarity.

The European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) is in constant contact with the affected countries and with participating states in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, matching the incoming offers for

assistance with needs on the ground. The EU will support the reconstruction efforts in the affected areas.

We also welcome and appreciate the assistance provided to the affected countries by the OSCE.

At these difficult moments, the people of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia can rely on the solidarity and continued help from their friends and partners in the European Union.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ICELAND+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ANDORRA and MONACO align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro 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.