



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 939 Vienna, 31 January 2013

EU statement on International Holocaust Remembrance Day

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the statement issued on its behalf by High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on 27 January 2013:

“Today we remember the victims of the Holocaust. We honour every one of the six million who were brutally murdered in this darkest period of European history. I also want to pay special tribute to the survivors of the Holocaust, who remind us of this tragedy that we must never forget.

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we remember that this crime was not perpetrated by a few individuals. Many took part directly or indirectly and many more just let it happen. That is why we must remain vigilant. Genocide is caused by the violence of some and the indifference of others.

Today also gives us a chance to celebrate the acts of courage and sacrifice which lit up Europe: neighbours who saved families, employers who rescued their employees and all those who protected their fellow citizens.

These acts are proof that we are not powerless against evil. That is a lesson which must guide us today; not just to remember the crimes of the past, but to dedicate ourselves to preventing all acts of hatred and standing up for fundamental rights and freedoms in our own time”.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, 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 country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, 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.