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**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council N° 1200  
Vienna, 8 November 2018**

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**EU Statement on the death of Kateryna Handzyuk**

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Ukrainian activist Kateryna Handzyuk passed away on 4 November as a result of an acid attack on 31 July outside her home in Kherson, Ukraine. Kateryna Handzyuk was a courageous and dedicated activist focusing on the fight against corruption in Ukraine. We offer our condolences to her family and friends.

We expect the Ukrainian authorities to make every effort to swiftly and thoroughly investigate Kateryna Handzyuk's murder. We echo the calls of the Representative on Freedom of the Media and of the Director of ODIHR to bring those behind this terrible crime to justice. Furthermore, we look forward to tangible steps to be taken to reverse the worrying trend of attacks against civil society activists and investigative journalists in Ukraine.

A vibrant civil society is crucial in any democratic society, and it is of utmost importance that this is protected – in Ukraine as elsewhere.

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

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.