



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council N° 1170  
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**EU Statement in response to the Report by the Special  
Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and  
Security**

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The European Union warmly welcomes the Special Representatives of the Chairperson in Office on Youth and Security and thanks them for their presentation. We commend their work throughout the year and the continued support to the Youth and Security agenda by the Austrian Chairmanship in Office, following the initiatives of past CiOs of appointing Special Representatives.

The priority areas on which the SRs focused their work have contributed to mainstreaming the landmark UNSC resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security in the OSCE.

We welcome the Special Representatives' active engagement in many activities, workshops and conferences. The flagship OSCE youth event of the year, the Conference "Working with youth and for youth: strengthening security and co-operation online", which took place in Malaga in May, resulted in a Decalogue drafted by young participants. The role of the CiO Special Representatives on Youth and Security was a key for the success of the event and an inspiration for the hundreds of participants coming from participating States and partners for Co-operation. We encourage OSCE participating States to explore ways in which the Malaga Decalogue of recommendations could be implemented in the OSCE.

The CiO Special Representatives on Youth and Security also contributed substantively to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that Lead to Terrorism, one of the priorities of the Austrian Chairmanship in 2017. They took part in the annual CT/VERLT conference and engaged systematically in a series of regional workshops.

The OSCE Group of Friends of Youth and Security, chaired by the Spanish Permanent Representative, is a privileged forum for discussions and exchanges of experiences among the OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and Field Operations, delegations and external stakeholders together with the Special Representatives. We encourage participating States and Partners for Cooperation to actively engage in these debates with the aim of moving forward the Youth and Security agenda within the OSCE.

The participation of young people in peace and security efforts remains an objective to which the EU is fully committed. The EU has recently participated in the Youth, Peace and Security European regional consultation, as part of the UN Peacebuilding Support Office -led global progress study of the UNSC resolution 2250.

The EU youth strategy for 2010-2018 has placed young people at the heart of the policy-making process, recognizing them as resourceful partners in searching for solutions to the challenges they face. The EU has also been reinforcing its engagement with young people in and beyond its neighbourhood. We have created partnerships to promote people-to-people contacts and networks for youth of all ages in the EU and neighbouring countries, to foster mutual respect and understanding and open societies. The EU has long been a leading force for youth development and partnerships, the Erasmus Programme being one good example.

We are equally supporting the Youth and Security portfolio in the OSCE. An example of this commitment is the contribution by some EU Member States to the Extra Budgetary project on Strengthening OSCE Efforts on Youth and Security that is currently being developed in the Office of the Secretary General.

We welcome the fact that the OSCE Field Operations in the Western Balkans countries have supported the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) since its establishment, which represents a major step taken to heal the wounds of the past and to enhance sustainable cooperation among youth in the region. In this regard, we look forward to continued OSCE and RYCO cooperation in such fields as intercultural dialogue, youth active participation and social inclusion, and to

prevent intolerance and radicalisation. RYCO provides a major contribution to the reconciliation and the promotion of European values in the region by strengthening exchanges and learning mobility of its youth.

We acknowledge the valuable work that has been done since 2015 by the Youth and Security CiO Special Representatives and we commend the intention of the incoming Italian Chairmanship to continue to support their work. We look forward to fruitful co-operation with the Special Representatives on Youth and Security in the coming year.

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 country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO 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.