



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council N° 1161 Vienna, 19 October 2017

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#### **EU statement in response to the Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission, H.E. Tigran Sargsyan**

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We welcome H.E. Tigran Sargsyan, Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission, to the Permanent Council.

The European Union is in favour of improving economic relations in the OSCE area and is actively working to this end. With the Eurasian Economic Commission we maintain contacts on technical level, mainly via the EU Delegation and the European Commission. The European Commission has such contacts with the Eurasian Economic Commission in areas like technical regulations, state aid control or trade defence.

In our view, regional economic integration initiatives should help to overcome dividing lines rather than creating new ones. Free Trade Agreements concluded by the EU are therefore compatible with other trade agreements of the respective partner country and mutually beneficial. Creating a network of FTAs facilitates more trade liberalisation and more economic integration. We believe that such efforts can, in the long run, truly improve connectivity.

Any decision on the establishment of formal political relations between the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union rests with our Member States and would need to be taken in view of the wider political context, including the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

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 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.