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**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1502nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 December 2024

**In response to the three Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on
tolerance and non-discrimination**

The European Union thanks the Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office for their reports to the Permanent Council.

The OSCE participating States committed themselves in Copenhagen in 1990 and in Madrid in 2007 to combating all forms of discrimination, whatever the grounds. These commitments recall the need to ensure that human rights and fundamental freedoms apply universally to all human beings, in law and in practice. In that regard, while reaffirming our unfailing commitment to combating religious intolerance in our States, we express our concern about the danger of compartmentalization in this fight, which risks undermining the coherence of our commitments and the effectiveness of their implementation.

The European Union is committed in both its internal policies and its external action to combating discrimination and all forms of intolerance, also within the OSCE. This priority has been reaffirmed many times, notably in the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020–2025. The European Commission has also adopted the Gender Action Plan III 2021–2025, the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020–2025, the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030, the EU Roma Strategic Framework 2020–2030 and the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life 2021–2030.

It is important for the work of the Personal Representatives to be closely co-ordinated with all responsible stakeholders, in particular the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which recently presented its 2023 Hate Crime Report. In addition, we advocate the closest possible co-ordination between the three Personal Representatives with the support of the Chairmanship so as to facilitate a universal, comprehensive and inclusive approach to human rights.

We recall the importance of systematically and explicitly condemning the advocacy of hatred. Furthermore, combating all forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia requires adequate legal responses but also preventive and educational measures promoting the values of tolerance, social inclusion and the equality of all before the law. In the current volatile climate, our shared values – the affirmation of the equal dignity of human beings and the rejection of intolerance of others because they are different – are the best bulwarks against the spiral of hatred. These values are at the heart of the OSCE's commitments and should guide us more than ever in our work.

On 10 December we celebrated the international Human Rights Day, which once again serves as a reminder of the importance of the contribution of civil society and human rights defenders to the promotion and protection of fundamental rights.

The candidate countries North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Albania¹, Serbia¹, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina¹ and Georgia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Liechtenstein, as well as Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

1 North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.