



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No. 1245 Vienna, 31 October 2019

#### **EU Statement in Response to the Report by the Special Representatives of the OSCE CiO on Youth and Security**

The European Union warmly welcomes the Special Representatives of the Chairperson in Office on Youth and Security and thanks them for their presentations.

This week the OSCE-wide Youth Forum “Engaging Youth for a Safer Future” took place in Bratislava. We commend this initiative by the Slovak CiO and OSCE Secretariat. During two days, young participants and official representatives from OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation have discussed the topics of the Core Group of Experts Discussion Paper on Building Peace, New Technologies, Environment and Energy, Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights, and Education and how young people can contribute to sustaining peace and comprehensive security. The strategic nature of this paper should inspire the OSCE’s security debates towards 2030 and beyond.

We look forward to the Ministerial Council side event on youth in December, which, as Minister Lajcak said in his opening remarks at the OSCE-wide Youth Forum, will unpack some of the messages from the Bratislava Forum.

At the same time, we continue to encourage OSCE participating States to explore ways in which the Malaga Decalogue of recommendations adopted in 2017 could be integrated fully into the work of the OSCE. We welcome initiatives like the GEMS awards launched by the Italian CiO last year, which is a remarkable implementation

of recommendation 6 of the Malaga Decalogue. We look forward to other initiatives of this kind.

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

We welcome OSCE executive structures and field operations work in youth related issues. We commend and support further efforts in strengthening the exchange of best practices among OSCE field operations and encourage to continue with practice-oriented initiatives such as the OSCE Expert Workshop on Youth, Peace and Security organized by the Slovak Chairmanship and the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Sweden.

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 Albanian 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 REPUBLIC of NORTH 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, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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