



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 1262
Vienna, 12 March 2020**

**EU Statement on the start of the criminal trial on the
downing of the flight MH17**

The European Union recalls the downing of flight MH17 over the east of Ukraine on 17 July 2014. This tragedy caused the death of 298 innocent civilians of 17 different nationalities.

The start of the criminal trial on 9 March marks an important milestone towards establishing the truth, and achieving justice for the victims of flight MH17 and their next of kin, and holding those responsible for the downing to account.

The European Union reiterates its full confidence in the independence and professionalism of the legal procedures.

As the criminal investigation of the Joint Investigation Team continues, the EU calls on all participating States, including the Russian Federation, to cooperate fully with the investigation, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2166.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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