



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1259

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EU Statement in response to the Presentations by the Chairpersons of the Economic and Environmental Committee and the Human Dimension Committee

The European Union thanks the Chairpersons of the Economic and Environmental Committee and the Human Dimension Committee for presenting the respective work programmes for this year.

We welcome Ambassador Sherzod Asadov and thank him for presenting the outline of the work planned in the Economic and Environmental Committee. We appreciate your dedication to the activities and topics of the Second Dimension and your vision of it as an integral part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. As we have said on previous occasions, we welcome that aspects of anti-corruption and good governance, the environment as well as digital transformation will feature in our work plan in 2020. These areas are also priorities for the EU.

We are pleased to see the continuity of our work in the Second Dimension with the previous chairmanships. We very much welcome efforts aimed at aligning the work of the Economic and Environmental Committee with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We support your plans to ensure that environmental topics are a core part of our discussions this year and that full and proper consideration is given to the gender aspects in all areas of the OSCE's work. We also welcome the intention to have an early start of the dialogue on the topics of ministerial deliverables and we look forward to finding consensus in Tirana. We would also welcome the continued

contribution of the field missions to the work of the Committee.

We would like to thank Ambassador Ivo Šrámek and his able team for the work done as Chair of the Human Dimension Committee in the past year and we welcome that he will continue in 2020. The Human Dimension should remain at the forefront of our work. This year we mark the anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a new Europe and the Copenhagen Document, landmark documents for the Human Dimension, and we welcome that the HDC Chair together with the Albanian Chairmanship are considering reflecting this in the years' programme.

We welcome the extensive choice of topics for the Human Dimension Committee meetings, in particular the focus on the fundamental freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and religion or belief, media freedom, human rights defenders, democratic institutions and elections. We see merit in addressing intolerance and discrimination in a comprehensive manner, with a focus on hate crimes, as well as in addressing issues related to Roma and Sinti. We would also like to see the discussions on torture prevention continue this year.

We appreciate the efforts invested by the Chair into continuing and strengthening the inclusive and interactive approach of the Human Dimension Committee meetings. This approach facilitates involvement of a broad range of stakeholders - from civil society, autonomous institutions and field missions, as well as from other international organisations - and to more engaging discussions, and we appreciate that this approach will continue. We also appreciate the practice of providing concept papers to steer the discussions. We welcome the continued practice of voluntary reporting and we thank those participating States that made efforts and presented such reports. We encourage participating States to make full use of this agenda item.

We welcome the focus during this year on gender equality, combating violence against women and girls, as well as on women, peace and security, considering the important anniversaries of the landmark UNSC Resolution 1325 and the Beijing Platform for Action. We look forward to the discussions and meetings related to these. Gender mainstreaming throughout all three Committee meetings and all OSCE events is important.

We appreciate that youth features in the work of both Committees in line with the

priority that the Albanian Chairmanship attaches to it as a cross dimensional topic.

Again, thank you to the Chairpersons for presenting their work programmes. We look forward to working closely with you.

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 and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, 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.