



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1150
Vienna, 22 June 2017**

**EU statement in response to the Report of the outgoing
OSCE Secretary General, Mr. Lamberto Zannier**

Dear Secretary-General, dear Lamberto,

Thank you very much for this last report, which you have delivered with authority and wisdom.

It is difficult to do justice with just a few words to these six years, to your efforts and to your dedication to the norms and values of this organisation, which we share, as a group and individually. These are our norms and values as well.

A couple of weeks ago, during our retreat in Retz, you took us through the history of the OSCE, going back to the days of the CSCE. Obviously, your diagnostic was not optimistic. It is true, we are not in the seventies any more, we are not any longer in a situation where a large group of States confronts another large group of States. We have come a long way, and the degree of agreement on what our basic norms and values really mean is now much wider and deeper. However, today the OSCE is facing many challenges, not least the fact that basic principles set out in the Helsinki Final Act, and later confirmed in the Charter of Paris, have been so openly violated.

Dear Secretary-General, you have also shared with us what you believe could be ways to put the OSCE in a better position to make our region a better place. In Retz (and again now), you have mentioned several key words: you have mentioned 'dialogue', you have mentioned 'trust'. These are indeed important words we often hear in this room, but words alone are not enough if we are to move forward, and if we are to ensure security within the OSCE region.

Dear Lamberto, the best summary of our feelings is simply to say again ‘thank you’ for your commitment to the OSCE, your professionalism, your dedication and for everything you have done to promote the norms and values of this organisation. We in the European Union, together with the very many participating States who share these objectives, will continue to work hard to make our region the better place it must become. We wish you all the best for the future.

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, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, MONACO and SAN MARINO 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.