



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N° 1165
Vienna, 23 November 2017**

**EU Statement on the Occasion of the Day of Dignity and
Freedom**

Four years and two days ago, Ukrainians gathered on Kyiv's Independence Square (Maidan Nezalezhnosti) displaying unprecedented public support for Ukraine's path towards democracy and rule of law. Their support and the reform efforts of the Ukrainian authorities have since led to the entry into force of the Association Agreement with the EU on 1 September 2017, as well as the entry into force of visa-free travel for short term stays on 11 June 2017. We thank the Ukrainian Delegation for the information provided in this regard and reaffirm our commitment to support and closely follow Ukraine's democratic consolidation and ambitious reform process.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA as well as UKRAINE and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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