



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1012  
Vienna, 24 July 2014**

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**EU Statement on the Commemoration of the 70th  
Anniversary of the Liquidation of the Romani Camp at  
Auschwitz**

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The EU joins the United States in marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “liquidation” of the Romani camp at the Nazi German Extermination Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. We agree that this terrible tragedy must not be forgotten and the EU actively supports initiatives which remember the Roma Genocide.

Roma and Sinti issues are high on the agenda of the EU. Central to this is the EU Framework for the National Roma Integration Strategies agreed by the European Council in 2011. The European Commission report assessing the implementation of the EU Framework was presented in April 2014. It underlines that further efforts within the EU to improve the lives of the Roma population since the framework was agreed have already delivered visible results. However, progress still needs to be made in some areas.

The EU commends the work of OSCE institutions, notably the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, for their dedicated efforts in advancing the implementation of the OSCE commitments on Roma and Sinti and assisting participating States to this end. We continue to engage in dialogue with ODIHR on this issue and work together with them to address these issues, both inside and outside of the EU.

We also welcome the activity of ODIHR aimed at promoting remembrance of and providing instruction on the Roma and Sinti genocide. We commend the concrete steps taken by participating States to raise awareness of, commemorate and teach about the Holocaust of the Roma and Sinti.

The EU is fully committed to implementing all the commitments it has also undertaken in the OSCE on Roma and Sinti issues and we call on all participating States to do likewise and support further efforts to eradicate all racist and xenophobic discourse.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ICELAND+, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and MONACO 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.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.