



EUROPEAN UNION

2020 Albanian OSCE Chairmanship Conference

“Good Governance and the Fight against Corruption in the Digital Era: Strengthening the Principles of Transparency, Integrity and Accountability”

6 - 7 July 2020

EU Closing Statement

The European Union would like to thank the Albanian Chairmanship for organising this conference on the topic of Good Governance and the Fight against Corruption in the Digital Era.

The EU thanks all the speakers for their contributions and the Albanian Chairmanship for highlighting this important topic, which is even more relevant in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The discussions over the two days illustrated that corruption is still an enormous challenge worldwide. In order to reinforce the global fight against corruption, it is paramount to strengthen international cooperation, with a view to enabling States to efficiently prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption, as well as to apply effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions and recover criminal assets, while fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Respect for the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice responses and sustainable development are complementary and mutually reinforcing. Determined action in these areas significantly contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The discussions stressed the need for holistic, comprehensive prevention strategies that increase transparency and integrity in all sectors of society and focus on root causes, threats, vulnerabilities and risk factors.

The work undertaken and high standards set by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is of great importance for this international and multidimensional issue.

We also support the valuable work of the OSCE's autonomous institutions and field missions, as well as the Secretariat. In this regard, we would like to mention the close cooperation of the EU, the Council of Europe, the OECD and the OSCE on anti-trafficking efforts and initiatives. Furthermore, we would like to highlight the continuous support of many EU Member States to the OSCE's anti-corruption projects through extensive additional financial contributions, as well as through their expertise.

The EU reaffirms its strong commitment to continue efforts to prevent, combat and to promote effective measures against corruption in all forms, including corruption affecting the environment, or enabling trafficking in natural resources and wildlife. We believe that the OSCE has a relevant role to play in this regard and we hope that the upcoming Ministerial Council will contribute to the OSCE's and participating States' efforts in combatting corruption.

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 country LIECHTENSTEIN, member 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.