



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1096
Vienna, 14 April 2016**

**EU statement on developments in the former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia**

The European Union shares concern about recent developments in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has committed itself to promoting the rule of law and fighting impunity. Against this background, the decision on Tuesday by President Ivanov to halt criminal proceedings against a number of officials raises serious concerns.

The decision is not consistent with the Prizino Agreement or with the rule of law. It undermines the work of the Special Prosecutor and makes a sustainable resolution of the political crisis much harder.

The European Union calls on all parties urgently to return to the negotiating table and to implement their reform commitments, including those in preparation of credible elections, in the interests of all citizens. This is important to keep the country on the European and Euro-Atlantic path.

The Candidate Countries MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE align themselves with this statement.

* Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.