



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No. 1260 Vienna, 27 February 2020

#### **EU Statement on the cyber-attack against Georgia**

Mr. Chairperson, we would like to thank Georgia for bringing this topic to the attention of the Permanent Council and for the information provided. The European Union and its Member States condemn the cyber-attack, which targeted Georgia on 28 October 2019, causing damage to its social and economic infrastructure. We will continue to support Georgia in increasing its cyber resilience.

This cyber-attack, which showed disregard for security and stability in cyberspace, undermines the development of political, social and economic benefits provided by the Internet and the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). We are concerned about the increase of irresponsible and destabilising behaviour in cyberspace and will continue to address the challenges that such behaviour poses both internally and to our foreign and security policy.

The European Union and its Member States call upon the international community to continue to strengthen their cooperation in favour of a global, open, stable, peaceful and secure cyberspace where human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law fully apply.

We underline our commitment, and call on all participating States, to continue to promote responsible behaviour in cyberspace through the application of international law, norms of responsible state behaviour, regional confidence-building measures including the set of 16 cyber/ICT security confidence-building measures developed by OSCE participating States to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of

ICTs, MC decisions 5/16 and 5 /17, and through the EU's framework for a joint diplomatic response to malicious cyber activities.

We call upon the international community to continue to contribute to international peace and security by implementing the existing consensus based on the 2010, 2013 and 2015 reports of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts in the field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (UNGGE) and to advance cooperation to strengthen this consensus in the United Nations, including in the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, and other appropriate international fora.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country ICELAND, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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