



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No. 1374 Vienna, 19 May 2022

#### EU Statement on Developments in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region in Tajikistan

1. The European Union expresses its deep concern about reported internal tensions and violent clashes within the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous region.
2. We call on all parties to spare no effort to de-escalate, exercise restraint and refrain from excessive use of force and incitement to violence. We urge the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to ensure that law enforcement agencies act in strict compliance with the rule of law and uphold the standards of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms even in security-related crisis situations. The reported intimidation and prosecution of citizens and journalists, and the apparent broad limitation of access to information, undermine the prospects for a swift de-escalation and return to normal order.
3. We deeply regret the loss of life and express our sincere condolences to the families. Our sympathies go as well to those who have been injured, including local residents and those in law enforcement.
4. In conclusion, we encourage all to engage in good-faith communication and seek an expeditious path to de-escalation of the situation.

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 countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, UNITED KINGDOM and CANADA align themselves with this statement.

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