



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1425 Vienna, 1 June 2023

EU Statement on recent developments in the north of Kosovo^{*1}

1. The European Union condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent violence in the north of Kosovo. Violent acts against citizens, media, law enforcement agencies, and KFOR troops are absolutely unacceptable and bring us to a very dangerous situation.
2. The EU stands firmly behind NATO's mission, KFOR, in fulfilling its mandate in the interest of peace and stability in Kosovo and welcomes NATO's decision to deploy additional troops in Kosovo. The EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), as the second security responder, stands ready to ensure stability on the ground in close coordination with KFOR and the Kosovo Police, in line with their respective mandates. We also thank the OSCE Mission in Kosovo for contributing to ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions.
3. We call on all sides to urgently take measures to de-escalate tensions immediately and unconditionally. Any further unilateral action must be avoided and calm should be restored. As a first step, Kosovo authorities need to suspend without further delay police operations of provocative nature focusing on the municipal buildings in the north of Kosovo, while the violent protesters need to stand down without further delay.

¹ * This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

4. The European Union expects Pristina and Belgrade to act responsibly and engage immediately in the EU-facilitated Dialogue to find a sustainable solution to the situation in the north of Kosovo that guarantees the safety and security of all citizens and paves the way for the implementation of the new Agreement on the Path to Normalisation. Both sides are expected to contribute to fruitful regional cooperation and security in Europe, as well as overcome the legacy of the past.

The Candidate Countries NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ALBANIA, UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA*, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.