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**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 926
Vienna, 18 October 2012**

**EU statement in response to the report by the
Chairpersons of the three Committees**

The European Union and its Member States thank the Chair of the Security Committee, H.E. Ambassador Tacan Ildem, the Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee, H.E. Eustathios Lozos, and the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee, H.E. Ambassador Thomas Greminger, for their presentations. We welcome a close link between the work of the three committees and the Permanent Council. We will remain committed to, and engaged in, all three dimensions of the OSCE. We support the intention of the Chairmanship to reach consensus on few, but substantial decisions at the Ministerial Council in Dublin.

Mr Chairman,

Regarding the Security Committee, we fully support the efforts of both the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Chair of the Committee to take forward the work on transnational threats. We welcome that, since the last report of Ambassador Ildem to the Permanent Council in March this year, three of the four decisions under discussion at the time have now been adopted.

We underline the importance of adopting, as soon as possible and at Permanent Council level, the decision on the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism, which remains the last

outstanding decision in the transnational threats package. We stand ready to support the initiatives of the Chairmanship-in-Office and its chef de file in this regard. We urge participating States to engage in a constructive spirit in the next round of discussions on these.

We strongly support the Chairmanship-in-Office's ambition to adopt two decisions at the Dublin Ministerial Council: the chapeau decision that would endorse at the highest level the four decisions adopted on transnational threats, and the decision on confidence building measures to enhance cyber security, which would confirm the added-value of the OSCE in that field and encourage further efforts in the next years. We welcome the fact that the two draft decisions circulated are short and targeted. We are ready to engage in the discussions on these drafts in good faith and encourage others to do the same.

We advocate a cross-dimensional approach when addressing TNT issues. We underline that the OSCE's work on transnational threats must play to the OSCE's strengths and should complement efforts by other players in this field. We therefore see a crucial role for the Security Committee in overseeing the OSCE's activities on transnational threats. We look forward to continuing a regular and constructive interaction with the TNT Department and its coordinator. Dialogue with relevant actors active in combating transnational threats, such as UNODC, is also key in this regard.

Mr Chairman,

Regarding the Economic and Environmental Committee, we appreciate the efforts and the leadership of the Chair of the Committee. We welcome the thematic focus of the Committee meetings as well as their comprehensive agenda and excellent choice of highly qualified speakers,

which enabled us to hold interesting discussions and valuable exchanges, also on best practices.

We appreciate that the themes of the Committee meetings fitted well with and complemented the Irish Chairmanship's priority topic of good governance. In this context, the meeting on the cross-dimensional perspective of good governance needs to be emphasised. We value that highly relevant subjects, such as environmental governance and sustainable development, energy security dialogue, equal opportunities for women and water management and cooperation, have featured on the agenda. We commend the efforts of the Chair aiming at strengthening the effectiveness of the Economic and Environmental Dimension by initiating a review of the implementation of the 2003 Strategy Document, on the basis of PC Decision 10/11. We look forward to the report on this process by the Chair of the Committee by the end of 2012.

Finally, Mr Chairman, regarding the human dimension, we reiterate our appreciation for the introduction of a standing agenda in the Human Dimension Committee last year, including the item on voluntary reporting by participating States on the implementation of their commitments. We appreciate, in particular, the fact that the standing agenda allowed for more substantive discussions in a constructive spirit, including with other relevant actors, as well as an increased interaction with OSCE Institutions and executive structures.

We believe that an intensified exchange with civil society representatives would help sustain the dynamic in the Human Dimension Committee. We invite the current and future Chairs to take this suggestion forward.

In terms of substance, we would like to underline the quality of the sessions that took place in the Committee this year on freedom of assembly and association, safety of journalists, combating torture, and internally displaced persons, including the recommendations made during these discussions, which the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee just summed up.

We reiterate that the review of human dimension events should result in their increased capacity to review the implementation of our commitments in this field, making human dimension events more attractive, effective and focussed. We call on all delegations to continue to engage constructively in that exercise. In that context, it needs to be underlined that the Human Dimension Committee also contributes to the review of implementation of commitments.

Lastly, we welcome the Chairmanship-in-Office's decision to table a draft decision on media freedom at the Dublin Ministerial. As media freedom has been a longstanding top priority for the EU, we continue to seek a robust Ministerial Council decision on it that reaffirms our commitments in this field and states that all our OSCE commitments, particularly those pertaining to fundamental freedoms, apply online as much as they do offline. We equally support provisions related to the safety of journalists, building on the work done in 2011 in that respect.

By way of conclusion, the EU wishes to reiterate its support for the work done by the three Chairs and our intent to fully co-operate with them in their further efforts.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.