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To the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Vienna

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United Kingdom Presidency of the Council of the European Union

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EU Statement on the commemorations in Potocari of the 10th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre

The European Union and the entire international community join in the commemoration on the 11th July of the tenth anniversary of the massacre of thousands of innocent civilians in Srebrenica. Responsibility lies with those who ordered and perpetrated this evil. But the fact that the international community were not able to prevent this crime is a lasting shame. The international community needs to ensure it has the appropriate mechanisms to prevent and address such crimes in future.

People in Bosnia-Herzegovina are still profoundly affected by these atrocities. The shock triggered by the recent broadcasting of a video showing the cold-blooded murder of Bosnian Muslims by a Serb special unit in 1995 offers an opportunity to address the twin causes of justice and reconciliation.

In the light of the anniversary, the European Union, recalling the UNSC Resolutions 1503 and 1534, underlines that full and unrestricted co-operation with the ICTY remains an essential requirement for continuing progress towards the EU. The transfer to The Hague of all the remaining fugitive indictees who continue to elude international justice, notably in this context Radovan Karadzic and Radko Mladic indicted for the Srebrenica massacre, would be a fitting tribute to the victims of Srebrenica, as well as a major stride towards permanent peace, stability and reconciliation.

Finally, the EU attaches great importance to the continuation of the OSCE's own efforts in the region on reconciliation including through facilitating the return of all refugees, implementing property law, fostering human rights, monitoring war crimes trials and promoting interethnic dialogue.



The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey and Croatia ¹, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as Ukraine and Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

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¹ Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process