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**OSCE Permanent Council 888
Vienna, 17 November 2011**

EU statement on 'Occupy Wall Street' protests in the United States of America

The European Union would like to reiterate that freedom of expression, and its corollary, freedom of the media, is a cornerstone of democracy. It is a precondition for a free exchange of opinions without which no democratic society can function, including for the free flow of information to which everyone is entitled.

In this context, we have taken note of the Press Release issued by the Representative on Freedom of the Media on 11 November 2011, in which she expressed concern about the treatment of journalists by police while covering "Occupy Wall Street" protests across the United States. We would like to take this opportunity to kindly request the American Delegation to brief the Permanent Council about these developments.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as GEORGIA, align themselves with this statement.

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

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