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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 875TH MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 22 July 2011

Regarding the terrorist attack carried out in Turkey

As the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, said on 15 July 2011, the European Union deeply regrets the death of 13 Turkish soldiers in the course of an attack carried out on 14 July by the PKK, an organization included in the list of persons, groups and entities to which the common position on the implementation of specific measures to combat terrorism applies. We condemn in the strongest terms this terrorist act, for which there can be no justification.

We express our feelings of deep sympathy and our solidarity with the families of the victims and the Government and people of Turkey.

The European Union reiterates its determination to combat terrorism unrelentingly, in accordance with international law and in a manner that respects human rights. In this regard, we support Turkey in its fight against terrorism and will continue to co-operate closely with it, at a bilateral and a multilateral level, including within the framework of the OSCE.

The candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro¹ and Iceland², the Stabilisation and Association Process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area.