

PC.DEL/885/09
5 November 2009

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 779th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 November 2009

**In response to the reports by the three Personal Representatives of the
Chairman-in-Office for tolerance and non-discrimination**

The European Union welcomes Mr. Mario Mauro, Rabbi Andrew Baker and Ambassador Adil Akhmetov, the three Permanent Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office for tolerance and non-discrimination, to the Permanent Council and thanks them for their reports.

The European Union thanks the three representatives for their contribution to the OSCE's activities to combat all forms of intolerance. It believes that the activities of the three representatives to promote the OSCE commitments and monitor their implementation by the participating States usefully complement the central role played by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Unfortunately, discrimination and manifestations of intolerance and hatred are still frequently encountered in the countries of the OSCE. The European Union would therefore like the three Personal Representatives to carry out their mission, within the framework of their mandate, wherever discrimination and intolerance occur.

The European Union is committed to maintaining, under the auspices of the Chairmanship, close co-operation between the representatives and the ODIHR. Furthermore, it would like the three Permanent Representatives to co-ordinate their work as closely as possible. This is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the representatives' work and the overall coherence of the OSCE's activities. In this regard, the European Union is pleased that the three representatives visited Canada and the United States of America together last month.

The fight against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance against Christians, Jews, Muslims or any other religion and the efforts to combat all forms of discrimination represent one of the priorities of the European Union within the OSCE. It would like this work to be pursued with vigour. What is more, the European Union would like our Organization to pay closer attention to manifestations of hatred and intolerance on the basis of a person's sexual orientation.

In conclusion, the European Union reiterates its support for the efforts of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office and encourages them in fulfilling their mission.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Stabilisation and Association Process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

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