

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 810
Vienna, 20th May 2010**

EU response to the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), Ambassador Miroslav Jenča

The European Union welcomes the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Ambassador Miroslav Jenča, to the Permanent Council.

We thank you, Ambassador Jenča, for your briefing on the Centre's activities. The EU attaches great importance to the efforts deployed by long-established OSCE field operations in Central Asia and for their valuable contributions to promoting security in the wider region. Following UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's address to the Permanent Council in April, we therefore value your visit as an opportunity to develop the exchange of information and to pave the way for enhanced coordination and cooperation between the OSCE and the UN in the area of preventive diplomacy in Central Asia. In particular, we welcome the consultation established with the OSCE in the

context of developing a way forward for the activities of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy.

We note with interest Ambassador Jenča's comments on Kyrgyzstan. The crisis in Kyrgyzstan is currently the most immediate security challenge in Central Asia. As recent events have demonstrated, the situation in the country remains fragile. The EU urges all actors to refrain from violence and unlawful action, and to concentrate their efforts on returning to full constitutional order in the country. The EU stands ready to support this process. In this context, we express our appreciation for the ongoing close co-operation between the EU, the OSCE and the UN and other international actors. Such endeavours should be strengthened in the future.

The EU is committed to contribute to the prevention of conflict, by making use of a large range of tools, as mentioned in the European Security Strategy of 2003 and the report on its implementation presented in December 2008. We are facing increasingly complex threats and challenges, which no single actor can tackle alone; cooperation among regional players, including regional organisations and the UN, is essential. The EU Central Asia Strategy for a New Partnership acknowledges that many challenges affecting Europe and Central Asia alike warrant a common response.

Significant progress has been made in implementing the EU Central Asia Strategy in a wide range of areas, including on tackling common security threats. Implementation of the

Strategy through intensified cooperation is leading to an upgrade in relations between the EU and Central Asian States.

The EU is committed to supporting effective and modern border management in Central Asia and supports OSCE efforts in this area, with a focus on the provision of its assistance when needed. In this respect, we take note of the UN Regional Centre's activities in this field, as well as its engagement in environmental issues.

We welcome engagement by the Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy on aspects related to the Afghanistan agenda. As part of its long-term commitment, the EU is continuing to engage to promote increased regional cooperation and effective international partnership. The EU is cooperating closely with the OSCE to support Afghanistan's efforts to improve its electoral process. As already stated on many occasions, we attach importance to taking forward OSCE engagement with Afghanistan, which, we believe, can make a meaningful contribution to stability and security in the region.

We would like to conclude by wishing Ambassador Jenča all the best for his future endeavours.

Los países candidatos TURQUÍA, CROACIA* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico

Europeo, ISLANDIA y NORUEGA, al igual que la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA y GEORGIA se suman a esta declaración.

*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.