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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 876TH MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 28 July 2011

Regarding the attacks that took place in Norway on 22 July

As the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, have said, the European Union was deeply shocked by the shooting that resulted in the death of several dozens of innocent people at a political gathering to the south of Oslo on 22 July 2011, and by the attack that took place on the same day in the Norwegian capital and shattered the offices of Prime Minister Stoltenberg. We condemn in the strongest terms these acts of ideological, savage and indiscriminate violence, for which there can be no justification.

We express our feelings of deep sympathy and our condolences to the families of the victims and to the authorities and people of Norway, whose calm in the face of this test deserves admiration. As a neighbour and particularly close partner of the European Union, Norway can count on our profound solidarity at this tragic time.

The European Union reiterates its determination to combat unrelentingly – in accordance with international law and in a manner that respects human rights – acts of extremism and ideological violence and radicalization likely to lead to terrorism, regardless of their form or manifestation.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro¹, the Stabilisation and Association Process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and Andorra, 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.