

## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 812th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 10 June 2010

### **Regarding the adoption of the agenda of the High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination**

The European Union welcomes the adoption by the Permanent Council of the agenda of the High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination. It thanks the Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE for its efforts to reach a consensus among the participating States.

The European Union has shown a great deal of flexibility during the negotiations on this agenda. It greatly regrets that the participating States were unable to reach an agreement on a more ambitious agenda based on a wide-ranging approach to the questions of tolerance and non-discrimination.

The European Union hopes that the delayed adoption of the agenda will not have an impact on the quality of the discussions that will take place in Astana and that this conference will make a genuine contribution to the fight against discrimination regardless of its form.

I would ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of the meeting.

The candidate countries Turkey 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 country and member of the European Economic Area Iceland, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

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\* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.