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EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 984
Vienna, 20 February 2014**

**EU Statement on Recent Legislative Amendments in
Turkey**

The European Union wishes to reiterate its concerns regarding the recently passed amendments to the Internet Law in Turkey. We believe that this law imposes undue restrictions on freedom of expression and is not in line with European standards and our OSCE commitments.

The European Union shares the concerns of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media expressed in several recent statements. We believe that there should be broad consultations with stakeholders on a measure of this sort. As part of the EU accession process, the European Commission has shared in writing with Turkey a number of the concerns that we have identified with the revised law, regarding both compatibility with the *acquis* and EU best practices.

We call on Turkey to consult and work with the EU, the OSCE and the Council of Europe in order to ensure that the right to freedom of expression, which includes freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, is not unduly restricted.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.