

Spanish Presidency of the European Union**OSCE Permanent Council No. 818
Vienna, 24th June 2010****EU statement in response to the report by the Head of
the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje,
Ambassador José Luis Herrero Ansola**

The EU warmly welcomes the Head of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, Ambassador José Luis Herrero Ansola, back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his comprehensive report.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU has consistently reiterated its commitment to the European perspective of the Western Balkans, in line with the Thessaloniki agenda and in accordance with the Copenhagen criteria and the Stabilization and Association Process conditionality. It is in this framework that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been granted the status of candidate country. In this regard, we recall the conclusions of the General Affairs Council of 7th December 2009.

We note with satisfaction the Mission's perception that the security situation remained mostly calm and stable thanks in part to the peaceful electoral process in 2009, although risk-factors have not completely disappeared. In this respect, we would like to commend the monitoring and confidence building activities of the Mission, which continues to play an important role, not only in assessing the situation on the ground, generating confidence among the different political parties and ethnic communities, but also as an early warning mechanism, especially in the areas of inter-ethnic relations, education issues and religious affairs.

The EU fully supports the OSCE Mission's activities on Promoting Rule of Law in the country. It values its multifaceted support, inter alia, for the adoption of laws relating to reform of the judiciary, as well as for the promotion of the Government's ongoing criminal justice reform. The EU also backs up the Mission's focus on the improvement of lawmaking and law implementation, through the introduction of systematic monitoring of the judicial system and evaluation of laws.

We commend the continuing efforts of the Mission to help the authorities to strengthen community policing, the fight against organised crime and terrorism, and the implementation of police reform taking into consideration the need for equitable representation across the public administration.

The EU praises the active engagement of the Mission in the implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations on the 2009 presidential and municipal elections, and look forward to further

effort with the authorities to remedy outstanding shortcomings identified by ODIHR.

The EU also appreciates the Mission's work in promoting good governance, in particular its efforts focused on the development of professional government structures. The EU stands ready to support the Mission in its efforts to develop a transparent and efficient public administration reform, free from undue political interference.

We reiterate our belief that the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, in carrying out its mandate and in coordination with other international organisations on the ground, should continue to assist the country to implement legislation and comply with its international commitments. The Mission's current mandate remains a sound basis for work and we encourage the host country's authorities to take full advantage of the OSCE's assistance in their ambitious reform agenda.

Nevertheless, the EU takes note of the assumption of the Head of the Mission that it is time to develop a new vision for the Mission for the next period of two or three years, including the reshaping of the Mission's activities and revising staffing and budgetary levels, in order to better reflect the current situation in the host country and the changes since 2002. We would be interested to hear his assessment on the operational and financial consequences of his initiatives and we will come back to this issue in the frame of the UB discussion, after taking into consideration the progress in all mandate-related areas in 2010.

We are open to discussing a possible name change of the Mission from its current form to «OSCE Mission to Skopje», an idea which was alluded to by Foreign Minister Milošoski in his address to the Permanent Council on 10 June 2010, perhaps in the context of the renewal of the Mission's mandate for 2011.

In conclusion we would like to assure Ambassador José Luis Herrero Ansola and his team of our continued support and wish them success in their important work.

Los países candidatos TURQUÍA, CROACIA*, la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA* e ISLANDIA; 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, LIECHTENSTEIN Y NORUEGA; al igual que la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA, ARMENIA y GEORGIA se suman a esta declaración.

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