

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 884th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 20 October 2011

Regarding the attacks in Turkey on 18 and 19 October

As the High Representative of the European Union and Vice-President of the European Commission Catherine Ashton stated on 19 October 2011, the European Union (EU) condemns in the strongest terms the attacks by the terrorist movement PKK on military posts in south-eastern Turkey on 19 October, which took the lives of at least 24 Turkish soldiers and wounded at least 18 others, as well as the attack in Bitlis province on the previous day, which claimed 8 lives.

The EU recalls that the PKK is on the list of individuals, groups and entities subject to the Council of the European Union Common Position on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism. In view of these acts of violence, for which there can be no justification, the EU reiterates its determination to combat terrorist organizations unremittingly, in accordance with international law and with respect for human rights.

We offer our very sincere condolences to the families of the victims and express our sympathy and our solidarity to the Government and people of Turkey.

The EU recalls its determination to combat all forms of terrorism uncompromisingly, in accordance with international law and with respect for human rights. In this regard, we reaffirm our support for Turkey in its fight against terrorism and will continue to work closely with that country both bilaterally and multilaterally, within the framework of the OSCE and elsewhere, to eradicate this scourge.

The candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro¹ and Iceland², the Stabilisation and Association Process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, 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.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area.