



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE

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Portugal 2007- Presidency of the European Union

Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

682nd Meeting of the Permanent Council

18th October 2007

Statement of the European Union on the 10th anniversary of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development- GUAM

Mr. Chairman,

The European Union thanks the Ambassador of Azerbaijan for his statement on behalf of the member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM.

The progressive transformation of the GUAM consultative forum in today's Organization in the course of the last 10 years reflects those countries' continuous will to cooperate closely among themselves, with other countries and international structures, in matters of common interest such as regional security and stability, democratisation and economic development.

The EU remains firmly committed to its European Neighbourhood Policy and, in this framework, welcomes the cooperation among GUAM countries, particularly in those areas which could help the achievement of ENP objectives.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.