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**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**OSCE Review Conference**  
**Warsaw, 7 October 2010**

**EU Statement - Plenary Session**

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Mr. Chairman, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to address this plenary session of the 2010 OSCE Review Conference on behalf of the European Union.

This Review Conference marks an important stage in our journey towards the reinforcement of trust and confidence between all participating States and the creation of a future security community where the use of force should be unthinkable. The idea for this journey was initiated at the 2008 Helsinki Ministerial Council and further developed by the Greek Chairmanship in June 2009 as the “Corfu Process”. It has continued under the Kazakh Chairmanship, during which participating States have developed a wide range of ideas on how to take our Organisation forward into the 21st century. The EU hopes that the Astana Summit, later this year, will provide the necessary political impetus and strategic direction, and agree on an action plan to tackle the security challenges the OSCE region is facing. We expect this Review Conference to play an important role in shaping the agenda and outcome of the Summit.

Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law lies at the core of the OSCE concept of security. The EU continues to be seriously concerned that the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and OSCE commitments are not being fully respected and implemented. We should remind ourselves that these commitments were entered into freely by all participating States, and that they apply equally to all. If we want to live in a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE area, from Vancouver to Vladivostok, free of dividing lines and zones with different levels of security, we need to respect and implement in full our shared OSCE norms, principles and commitments.

The EU recalls that it is crucial that the Kazakh Chairmanship upholds and complies with human rights standards and OSCE commitments, specifically those that Kazakhstan committed to at the Ministerial Council in Madrid in 2007.

Our open and frank dialogue, here in Warsaw, has shown that we all need to step up our efforts in implementing our common commitments. Indeed, the EU accepts that its own record on implementation is not perfect. That is why we have taken careful note of the comments and recommendations made these past few days, and we will consider them carefully, as appropriate. In this perspective, we regard peer review among participating States and recommendations made by OSCE Institutions not as reproaches or as interference in our internal affairs, but as indispensable elements in our joint efforts to achieve our common goal of a security community based on the respect for human rights, democracy and fundamental freedoms.

The EU highly appreciates the added value of the active participation of civil society. Their interventions and recommendations during the OSCE Human Dimension meetings and the courage of their members in defending human rights, in often difficult circumstances, are crucial elements in ensuring that human rights are respected in the OSCE region. The EU remains strongly committed to the open and free participation of non-governmental organizations in OSCE Human Dimension meetings, as is set out in our commitments. It is our view that, when a decision is taken on the registration of an NGO, there can only be one element of consideration, namely the respect of Chapter IV, paragraph 16 of the Helsinki Document 1992, and subsequent practice. In this regard the EU strongly regrets that Mr. Nurmukhammed Khanamov was not allowed to participate in our debates and that Mr. Annadurdy Khadzhiyev had to wait so long to be admitted here in Warsaw. We urge the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship to give a strong recommendation to the OSCE Secretary General to allow these two Turkmen NGO members to participate in the upcoming parts of the Review Conference. The EU would also like to express its full support to those NGOs that aim to organize events in Astana in the lead-up to the Summit.

This Review Conference will guide our preparations for the OSCE Summit in Astana later this year. It gives us an opportunity to further develop our ideas and priorities. The EU believes that, in respect of the Human Dimension, the Summit will need to agree on an Action Plan that should contain measures to:

- strengthen the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- strengthen the review of implementation of existing human dimension commitments, including through a more effective and systematic peer review and a better follow-up to recommendations made at OSCE events;

- strengthen the implementation of the existing Freedom of Media commitments and update them in response to the rapid change in recent years in the media field (eg Internet) and;
- ensure more systematic follow up to OSCE Institutions' recommendations to participating States, including those contained in election observation reports.

The EU would also like to take this opportunity to set out its priorities for Human Dimension activities next year. These are:

- Freedom of Assembly and Association;
- Freedom of Expression as a basic requisite for civil liberties and a fundamental component of a democratic society;
- Rule of Law;
- Rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and improving the situation of Roma and Sinti;
- Human rights defenders and Independent National Human Rights Institutions;
- Combating all forms of discrimination and intolerance, in particular hate crimes and discrimination based on grounds such as ethnic origin, religion, sex, age, disability or sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Prevention of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- Abolition of the death penalty;

Finally, the EU would like to warmly thank the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Director Janez Lenarčič and his team, for the excellent organization of this event, the Kazakh Chairmanship for its work in the build-up to the Summit and our Polish hosts for their kind hospitality.

The candidate countries CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\* and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area NORWAY, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

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