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EU statement on recent incidents in Kosovo

The EU would like to reiterate the statements on the incident in Kosovo on July 2 by the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy and by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton which have been circulated as SEC.DEL/159/10 and SEC.DEL/160/10 on 5 July 2010. Thorough investigations regarding the tragic incident in Northern Mitrovica on 2 July - as well as into the shooting incident at a member of the Kosovo Assembly on 5 July - are ongoing and those responsible need to be brought to justice. We expect all parties to fully cooperate in this effort.

We would like to stress that rule of law is one of the defining values of the European Union, and one of our most important priorities in Kosovo. In this context, the EU expresses its appreciation and full support for the valuable and important work of EULEX, its largest Civilian Mission ever deployed.

The EU calls on all sides to help de-escalate existing tensions and make sustained efforts towards greater stability and a peaceful dialogue. This would also be in the interest of the European perspective of the entire region.

In concluding, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the OSCE Mission in Kosovo for its valuable work and its continuous and swift reporting about developments on the ground.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and MONTENEGRO, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY align themselves with this statement.

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