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**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
AT THE 888th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 17 November 2011

Regarding the attack in Taraz, Kazakhstan

The European Union deeply deplores the attack committed on 12 November in Taraz and strongly condemns this series of acts of extreme violence that have caused the death of several persons.

We express our sincere condolence to the families and relatives of the innocent victims and assure the Kazakh people of our sympathy at this trying time.

The European Union hopes that any criminal network that has allowed the commission of this series of unjustifiable acts be identified and dismantled so that all of those responsible can be held accountable for their acts before the judicial authorities in accordance with international law and the respect of human rights.

The candidate countries Turkey, 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 the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, 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.