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EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Review Conference
Vienna, 25 October 2010**

**“Ensuring sustainable development and economic growth through
promoting technological innovation and modernization in the economies,
fostering social development, capacity-building for environmental
governance;
Protecting the environment**

EU Statement

Mr Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 defined for the first time an agenda for action to protect the planet’s environment. With the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development, and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development our nations defined the principles and the actions to be taken to comply with the ultimate goal of protecting our environment.

We are convinced that economic development must become sustainable in order to ensure long term prosperity and security. Research and development, and environmentally friendly innovations and technologies, are crucial elements in this regard. A transition to sustainable development is one of the biggest challenges that our societies have to face in the coming decades. Meeting this

challenge will also require a global effort where international organisations, nation states, business and scientific communities, and in particular the civil society, work hand in hand.

Sustainable development is about peace and stability as much as it is about the environment. The European Union believes that the OSCE in its Economic and Environmental Dimension can, in close co-operation and coordination with the relevant international organisations and respecting their leading role, contribute to such transition.

Good governance and transparency are crucial to achieve sustainable development and address adequately our common security concerns. International cooperation is needed, as environmental problems are of a transboundary nature and have global effects.

The EU continues to view public participation and transparency as key elements to ensuring a high level of human environmental security. In this regard we highly value the activities of the Aarhus Centres in the OSCE area, making it possible for stakeholders and decision-makers to come together, and resolve potential tensions before they even emerge.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.

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 ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO 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, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, 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.