

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Special Permanent Council No 1069
Vienna, 28 September 2015**

EU Statement on the escalation of violence in Turkey

In the wake of a series of attacks by the PKK in which dozens of people lost their lives, we reaffirm our condemnation of the terrorist acts and extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved and sympathies to those injured in the recent attacks.

The deterioration of the overall security situation in Turkey as well as the escalation of violence, especially the attacks against media outlets and political party headquarters, key elements of any democracy, are extremely disquieting.

To avoid a spiral of violence, interim government and all political leaders need to come together to guarantee the rule of law in the country, to call for a ceasefire and to ensure secure and competitive early general elections.

Kurdish peace process remains the best opportunity in a generation to solve a conflict that has claimed far too many lives and efforts from the past two years must not be thrown away. Resuming talks and negotiations within the peace process for a lasting solution is the only way forward.

The Candidate Country MONTENEGRO* and the EFTA country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE align themselves with this statement.

* Montenegro continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.