

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1070
Vienna, 8 October 2015**

**EU Statement in Response to Lt. Col. Helmut Napiontek,
OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint
Commission on Military Pensioners**

The European Union welcomes the Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners, Lieutenant Colonel Napiontek, to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his latest annual report.

We note from the report that no new individual cases have been brought to the attention of the Commission since 2008.

We welcome that the difference of opinion as to which persons are eligible military pensioners under the scope of the 1994 Agreement has now been resolved. We encourage the parties to continue to work constructively on updating the sub-agreement on medical care expenses reimbursement so that it is in conformity with the real costs for providing health services for military pensioners and their family members.

Finally, we would like to thank the Representative for his efforts to assist the parties. We note the expectation of the Representative that in the future, military pensioners in Latvia under the provisions of the 1994 agreement will seldom have to rely on OSCE support and that a big portion of the Representative's work is done. In this regard, we also welcome the Representative's proposed reduction of 44 percent in the Representative's budget for next year as a good example of budgetary restraint.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.