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## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 843rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 December 2010

### **Thanks by the European Union to the Kazakh Chairmanship for the Astana Summit**

The European Union sincerely thanks the Kazakh Chairmanship for holding the Astana Summit and for the outstanding organization and generous hospitality of the Kazakh people, which we have all been truly able to appreciate. We are grateful to all the authorities who contributed to its success.

Thanks to these efforts and the indefatigable work at the head of our Organization and on behalf of the participating States, the OSCE was able to hold a summit meeting for the first time in 11 years.

Mr. Chairperson, dear Kairat,

During the preparation for the Summit and the actual meeting itself, the European Union appreciated the availability, determination and commitment of the Chairperson-in-Office and his entire team and also his open-mindedness and impartiality.

We welcome the reaffirmation of the OSCE's principles and commitments in the Astana Declaration and the stepping up of efforts regarding the Vienna Document and the conventional armed forces regime in Europe. The European Union also welcomes the Joint Statement by the Heads of the Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries and the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia. While regretting that the Summit was unable to approve an action plan, we believe that our future work will be stimulated by the ideas discussed during the Summit preparations. The aim will now be to put them into effect and in this regard the European Union will be making proposals on the basis of the four priorities already outlined by it.

In conclusion, we should like to thank you and your team for your excellent work, an achievement that you can be proud of.

The candidate countries Croatia<sup>1</sup>, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup> and Iceland<sup>2</sup>, the Stabilisation and Association Process countries 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, Armenia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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1 Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 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.