

FSC-PC.DEL/38/08
29 October 2008

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE
36th JOINT MEETING OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY
CO-OPERATION AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

29 October 2008

**Regarding the “Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
of Armed Forces Personnel”**

The European Union (EU) welcomes with great satisfaction the “Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel”, prepared by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). The EU pays tribute to the long and exacting work accomplished by Professor Ian Leigh and by Dr. Hans Born of the DCAF.

The EU notes that the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security was the source for this Handbook, particularly as regards the provisions on the fundamental rights of armed forces personnel. The EU is therefore delighted to see the Code of Conduct strengthened and applied in practice through this Handbook.

The EU hopes that this Handbook will prompt all participating States to take the steps required to enable members of the armed forces to exercise their rights more effectively.

The candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.