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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 823rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 13 July 2010

Regarding Kyrgyzstan

The European Union (EU) is encouraged by the continuation of the discussions to reach an agreement on the deployment of a police advisory group. We urge the Kyrgyz authorities to quickly finalize the remaining modalities. In a security context that still needs to be consolidated, we are convinced that the expertise of the aforementioned police group will constitute valuable assistance for Kyrgyzstan and the Kyrgyz population in all its components.

Mr. Chairperson,

The EU has already had an occasion to show its commitment to the OSCE's co-operation with Kyrgyzstan, as part of the overall mandate of the OSCE in the country, through the intensification of the activities of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek in the three dimensions so as to help strengthen the democratic system. The EU also recalls its wish to see reconciliation activities expand with the support of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

In this regard, we welcome the supplementary budget proposal for the Centre in Bishkek presented on Friday. We note that you are proposing an additional budget of around one million euros, justified in particular by the intensification of the Centre's activities in the three dimensions, with a focus on early warning, conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation, and by the intention to open two new field offices. Our experts responsible for dealing with questions concerning the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance will return to your proposal in greater detail during the Committee's meeting this afternoon.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE is in the process of taking decisive steps towards increased engagement with Kyrgyzstan. The European Union calls on you, just like all the participating States, to make the qualitative leap that is urgently required in view of the gravity of the situation and the scale of what is at stake in Kyrgyzstan and in the region.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland, 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 the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, and Andorra, align themselves with this statement.

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