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EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 867
Vienna, 10 June 2011**

EU statement on the amnesty in Armenia

Recalling the statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton, the EU very much welcomes the adoption by the Armenian parliament on 26 May, following a proposal from President Sargsyan, of a general amnesty that has resulted in the release of all persons detained in connection with the violent events of March 2008.

The EU has followed closely the March 2008 events and their aftermath. We have repeatedly urged the Armenian government to release all those detained in connection with these events. The EU believes that the release of these detainees, which is also in line with the recommendations made by the ODIHR, will further help Armenia to move on from the events of March 2008.

We hope that, in the run up to elections in Armenia in 2012 and 2013, all political forces will seize the opportunity to renew their dialogue and that those elections will be conducted fully in line with international commitments.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the

European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

**Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.