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Swedish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 781
Vienna 12 November 2009**

EU Statement in response to the report by the OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners, Lt. Colonel Helmut Napiontek

The European Union welcomes Lt. Colonel Napiontek once more to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his report on his activities in the past year.

We welcome the positive developments in the period under review, including the absence of any individual complaints by Military Pensioners, continuing a trend that has been apparent for some time. At the same time however we note with concern unilateral actions leading to the modification of the list of Military Pensioners. We hope it will be possible for both sides to resolve this matter and to establish a common understanding on the basic principles to determine the composition of the Military Pensioners list, in accordance with the good spirit of co-operation which has prevailed to date in the Commission.

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The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE and the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

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