



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 954
Vienna, 30 May 2013**

**EU statement in response to Secretary General of GUAM,
H.E. Valeri Chechelashvili**

The EU warmly welcomes the Secretary General of the Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM, Ambassador Valeri Chechelashvili, to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his presentation.

The EU's framework of cooperation with the GUAM countries is the Eastern Partnership whose main goal is to create the conditions to accelerate political association and deepen economic integration between the EU and partner countries, including through promoting regional cooperation and enhancing neighbourly relations. These aims support our shared commitment to stability, security and prosperity of both the EU and the partner countries.

Therefore, the EU welcomes non-exclusive regional cooperation initiatives that can contribute to improving stability and security at the regional level, and that promote European values in the advancement of the objectives of the Eastern Partnership.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, align themselves with this statement.

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

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