



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

### **OSCE Permanent Council Nr 876 Vienna, 28 July 2011**

#### **EU statement on the situation in northern Kosovo**

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The European Union is highly concerned about the recent events in northern Kosovo. EU High Representative Ashton contacted all sides urging them to help defuse the tensions and do all that is necessary to calm down the situation.

The EU strongly condemns the violence that has taken place and deplores the casualties these incidents have caused. Our thoughts are with their families and friends. We urge all sides to refrain from violence and to solve their differences peacefully, for the benefit of all.

We support the efforts of EULEX and KFOR to de-escalate tensions on the ground and to maintain security and we call on all the sides to co-operate with them.

The EU urges all sides to focus efforts on resolving the underlying issues through the EU facilitated dialogue. This dialogue is the only way forward to solve the issue of custom stamps and to re-establish free trade in both directions.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ICELAND\*\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade

Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as ANDORRA 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.