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**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 989  
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**EU Statement on the adoption of the decisions on the dates of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the topics for the second part of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, and the topic and dates of the Human Dimension Seminar**

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The European Union welcomes the adoption today of the decisions on this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and the Human Dimension Seminar.

We want to thank the Chairmanship for consultations they have undertaken as part of the preparations of these decisions. As we stated in the Human Dimension Committee, we believe that through these consultations the package of human dimension events in 2014 has been enhanced and the focus of some events more closely aligned to our commitments. We look forward to engaging with our partners in fruitful and meaningful discussions on all the important issues on our agenda this year.

We also believe there are other pressing human rights concerns in our region, such as issues around freedom of association and assembly, freedom of the media and freedom of religion and belief. The annual human dimension events, in particular the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, provide a valuable opportunity for discussions on these and other issues, and particularly to listen to the recommendations of civil society on the topics for discussion. We hope that those opportunities which remain this year, including at HDIM, to address these issues will be availed of fully, to ensure that these issues get the due level of attention they deserve. We welcome the

commitment of the Chairmanship in this regard and we are ready to engage in the coming discussions on this basis.