



PC.DEL/721/08
4 September 2008

ENGLISH only

Présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne

**Conseil permanent No. 730
4 septembre 2008**

EU statement in response to the address by UNSG SR in Kosovo, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier and by the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Ambassador Tim Guldemann

The European Union welcomes the UN Secretary General's Special Representative in Kosovo, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, and the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Ambassador Tim Guldemann, to the Permanent Council. The EU thanks Amb. Zannier for his address and Amb. Guldemann for his comprehensive report on the Mission's activities in fulfilling its important and challenging tasks in the past seven months.

The European Union fully recognizes the important role the OSCE plays through its offices in Pristina as well as its presence in all municipalities throughout Kosovo. The EU supports OMIK's continued activities, in particular in the two main areas of monitoring and assistance.

The European Union also remains committed to playing a leading role in ensuring the stability of Kosovo, through the EULEX Kosovo, the EUSR and its contribution to the international civilian office as part of the international presences. The EU recalls its willingness to assist the economic and political development of Kosovo through a clear European perspective, in line with the European perspective of the region.

ue2008.fr

The EU particularly welcomes the vital role of OMIK in building bridges between communities and local authorities and in helping to ensure comprehensive and meaningful engagement at the local level. OMIK's work makes a difference to the lives of ordinary people in Kosovo regardless of which community they come from.

The EU values the Mission's commitment to continue its work in a status-neutral manner on the basis of the existing mandate. The EU remains committed to a continued strong presence of the OSCE in Kosovo in the interest of people living in Kosovo. OMIK plays an important role in promoting a peaceful, democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo, with full respect for the rule of law, the protection of the Serb and other minorities and of Kosovo's cultural and religious heritage, as well as the highest level of internationally recognised fundamental rights. Through its contribution to OMIK, the EU stands ready to support the mission in these efforts.

The European Union welcomes OMIK's efforts and commitment to enhance its efficiency and to prepare for the challenges ahead. Close co-operation and consultation between the OSCE, the United Nations and the European Union will continue to be necessary. The steady exchange of information has proven indispensable in pursuing the stabilisation of the entire region. We call on all sides to work together to achieve long-term stability and prosperity for all the population within Kosovo and the region.

The EU trusts that Ambassador Zannier's long-standing experience in the OSCE will guarantee a smooth reconfiguration of UNMIK within the framework of the UNSC resolution 1244 to speed up the EULEX full deployment and ensure its operational functions and with the OSCE remaining a distinct component.

ue2008.fr

In closing, Mr. Chairman, as this is the last time Ambassador Guldemann addresses the Permanent Council in his capacity of Head of OMIK, we would like to thank him for his dedicated and energetic work and wish him every success in his future activities.

La Turquie, la Croatie* et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine*, pays candidats ; la Bosnie – Herzégovine et le Monténégro, pays du processus de stabilisation et d'association et candidats potentiels ; l'Islande, le Liechtenstein et la Norvège, pays de l'Association Européenne de libre-échange et membres de l'Espace économique européen ; ainsi que la Géorgie se rallient à cette déclaration.

*La Croatie et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine continuent à participer au processus de stabilisation et d'association.

ue2008.fr