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EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 990
Vienna, 20 March 2014**

**EU Statement on the Adoption of the Declaration on
Afghanistan**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the adoption of this declaration. It underscores this Organisation's commitment to contributing to Afghanistan's success as it navigates its ongoing security, political, and economic transitions, and it reconfirms our interest in a democratic future for the people of Afghanistan in a stable and secure State. We, too, had of course hoped to be able to adopt a more substantial declaration on Afghanistan at the Ministerial Council in Kyiv. A more substantial declaration would have reflected the full range of our cooperation with this important partner State and it would also have highlighted - despite continuing challenges - the important progress made in Afghanistan in recent years.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

* 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.