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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 830th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 23 September 2010

In response to the report by H.E. Ambassador Herbert Salber, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre

The European Union (EU) thanks Ambassador Herbert Salber for his report on the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) during the past year. We should like to thank the CPC for the pivotal role it is playing in crisis management in all its forms – early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, and post-conflict rehabilitation – and for the support it provides to field operations.

The question of early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, and post-conflict rehabilitation, which is at the centre of our discussions within the framework of the Corfu Process, is one of the EU's four main priorities for the Astana Summit.

The EU proposes to develop a strategic vision of the OSCE's role in conflict and crisis management. The objective is to enable the OSCE to react and deal with tensions more rapidly, before they turn into crises, and to promote a lasting settlement of existing conflicts. In fact, the OSCE should be the first to respond when a conflict or a crisis develops in its region. It should also be the instigator of international co-operation with regard to conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in the OSCE area.

To this end, the EU recommends the strengthening of the analytic and operational capacities of the OSCE's executive structures – of the CPC in particular – in order to make better use of early warning messages from the field missions, while also improving co-ordination and institutional memory, and to do so, *a priori*, within the limits of the available resources. In this regard, we welcome the initiatives mentioned in Ambassador Salber's report, which are designed to strengthen the OSCE's mediation capacities.

The review conference, which will begin in two weeks, will allow us to consider in greater depth these proposals for improving the Organization's basic functions. This is a complex task that will require work and a spirit of co-operation. The EU hopes that, collectively, we will rise to these challenges.

As regards border security and management, the EU welcomes the progress made, in particular the functioning of the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, the capacity-building activities in Central Asia, and the growing engagement with Afghanistan.

We believe that border security and management are key elements for tackling numerous transnational threats, including those originating outside the OSCE area.

Generally speaking, in the area of transnational threats, in particular border security, terrorism and police matters, the programmes of the different OSCE executive structures should be co-ordinated to a far greater extent.

Mr. Chairperson,

The EU would like to express its satisfaction with the work of the CPC's various units:

- We highly appreciate the activities of the Policy Support Service with regard to advising the Chairmanship and the Secretary General and co-ordinating the field operations.
- We also attach a great deal of importance to operational planning and support for OSCE activities in the field.
- We appreciate the support provided to the Forum for Security Co-operation, as well as the management of the OSCE Communications Network, a major confidence-building measure.
- We thank the Situation/Communications Room for its excellent monitoring and information work.
- Lastly, we welcome the project co-ordination carried out by the Programming and Evaluation Support Unit, and the dissemination of a standard methodology within the Organization.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, the EU recognizes the great value of the work accomplished by Ambassador Salber and the CPC in all its components. We expect that the Astana Summit will enhance the Organization's capacities with regard to crisis management in all its forms – early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, and post-conflict rehabilitation. The EU believes that the CPC should be at the centre of such enhancement.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia¹, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ and Iceland², the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Andorra, align themselves with this statement.

1 Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area.