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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1070th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

8 October 2015

Regarding Nagorno-Karabakh

The European Union is concerned about recent armed incidents with several victims including civilians along the line of contact in Nagorno-Karabakh and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We offer our condolences to the families of the victims. The use of heavy artillery is cause for serious concern. The parties should respect their obligations under the Geneva Conventions.

We condemn all use of force and call on the parties to refrain from all action on the ground and statements that could feed the tensions. The immediate respect of the ceasefire and the non-use of force are essential to the success of efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

We welcome the initiatives recently adopted by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, particularly the meetings on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan on 25 September.

The current situation cannot endure, and we support the continuation of high-level negotiations to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with international law. The European Union, through its Special Representative Herbert Salber, supports and complements the efforts by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group. We are willing to continue to support the consolidation of peace and interpersonal contacts between the parties.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,¹ Montenegro¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.