

Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union ENGLISH only**Permanent Council No. 605
27 April 2006****EU Statement on Uzbekistan**

1. The European Union welcomes the issuing of the report prepared by the ODIHR on the monitoring of the trial that took place from September till November 2005 before the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, held in connection with the events in Andijan of May 2005. We would like to express our thanks to the ODIHR for its work, which was undertaken under challenging circumstances. The EU also takes note of the comments made so far by the Uzbek authorities.
2. We hope that the Uzbek authorities will use this report as a basis for an open and unprejudiced dialogue with their partners in the OSCE on both the Andijan events themselves and their legal follow-up. In this context, the EU reiterates its call for a credible and transparent independent international enquiry into the events of 12-13 May 2005 and urges the Uzbek authorities to lend their full co-operation to this process.
3. In order to allow a thorough analysis of the report and its annexes, as well as of the comments by Uzbekistan appended to it, the EU would like to refrain from a substantive comment of the ODIHR report at this Council meeting. However, we reserve the right to come back to the report with its conclusions and recommendations at a later point in time.
4. Once again, we reiterate our readiness to enter into a meaningful and constructive dialogue with Uzbekistan on the tragic events of Andijan and their aftermath. In the same vein, we express our hope that Uzbekistan seizes this opportunity to address this issue in the spirit of constructive dialogue and cooperation.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, EFTA countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

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