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EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Special Permanent Council Nr 839 Vienna, 23 November 2010

EU statement on Ukraine's OSCE Chairmanship 2013

Thank you, Mr Chairman,

The EU welcomes the Ministerial Council Decision on Ukraine's OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2013.

We look forward to Ukraine taking up a leading role in our Organisation and promoting the respect for our shared values, principles and commitments across all three dimensions. In this respect, we warmly welcome Ukraine's readiness to co-operate closely with OSCE field missions and institutions in the run up to their Chairmanship in order to lead this Organisation by example.

The European Union hopes we will be able to adopt, at the OSCE Summit in Astana, a strategic vision and a substantial action plan, which would allow Ukraine's Chairmanship to contribute further, with the participating states, to a more efficient and modernised OSCE.

We noted with satisfaction Ukraine's readiness to consult extensively with its partners regarding the priorities for its Chairmanship in 2013 and welcome its intention to exercise this function in the continuity of the Lithuanian and Irish Chairmanships.

In conclusion, the EU congratulates Ukraine, looks forward to working together and wishes it all the best for the challenging task ahead.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND**, 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 GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

** Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.