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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 911th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 10 May 2012

Regarding the terrorist attacks committed on 3 May in Makhachkala in the Republic of Dagestan, Russian Federation

As Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union and Vice-President of the Commission, said in her statement, the European Union resolutely condemns the two terrorist attacks that hit the city of Makhachkala in the Republic of Dagestan, Russian Federation, on 3 May 2012. There can be no justification for these criminal acts, which caused very heavy casualties, particularly within the civilian population.

Our thoughts today are with the victims of these attacks. We offer our sincere condolences to their families and relatives and wish the large number of injured victims a speedy and complete recovery. We stand by the citizens of the Russian Federation in the face of this trial.

We hope that the perpetrators of these attacks are swiftly identified and arrested so that they can answer for their acts before the law. The European Union expresses its concern at the large number of terrorist attacks committed in the North Caucasus region and recalls its determination to combat all forms terrorism in accordance with international law and with respect for human rights.

The acceding country Croatia¹, the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Iceland² and Serbia¹, the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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

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