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**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE
734th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 September 2008

**In response to Brigadier General Costanzo Periotto,
Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV
of the Dayton Peace Accord**

The European Union warmly welcomes Brigadier General Costanzo Periotto, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accord, and thanks him for his first report to the Permanent Council.

The European Union congratulates all the parties involved in the implementation of the Dayton Accord on the overall improvement in the security situation in South-East Europe. This assessment applies first of all to Brigadier General Periotto, who as the head of a dedicated team is performing remarkable work in his post.

Our thanks naturally also go to the parties to the Accord for what they have accomplished in the area of arms control and confidence-building, which has had positive effects in clearly improving stability and security in the region. We have heard some impressive facts and figures on this subject: Significant reductions in armed forces and in the heavy weaponry available to them have been achieved and others are expected; and inspections and verification exercises continue to be carried out successfully in an environment of increasing confidence and transparency. We note in particular the 300th inspection mission scheduled to take place in Croatia this week.

Mr. Chairman,

The European Union notes with satisfaction the positive and constructive results achieved by the Subregional Consultative Commissions that have met this year and also the results of the 6th annual Review Conference, held here in Vienna in July. We look forward to the official signing of the amendments to the Accord planned for October during the next meeting of the Consultative Commission. This will make it possible to confirm at a multilateral level the new arrangements between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro.

The European Union believes that the assistance being provided to the parties by the international community, and specifically by the Contact Group, continues to be extremely useful, in the same way as the support of the Personal Representative under the terms of his mandate. However, as stability and security in the region continue to develop in a positive

manner, the European Union would encourage the parties to explore, together with the Personal Representative, arrangements enabling them to strengthen their own voice in the execution of the Accord with a view to their gradual attainment of full autonomy in its implementation. We are ready to assist the parties and the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office in this area.

The candidate countries Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*; the Stabilisation and Association Process country and potential candidate country Albania; the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.