



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council 892
Vienna, 1 December 2011

EU statement on northern Kosovo

The European Union strongly condemns the recent escalation of violence in northern Kosovo on 28 November and, in particular, the attacks against KFOR soldiers who were trying to remove a road block in conformity with KFOR's mandate to guarantee freedom of movement. Numerous KFOR soldiers and civilians were injured, some of them seriously, in these incidents.

Against this background, and following the 29 November statement by President Tadić, we urge all sides to refrain from violence and to take decisive steps to solve their differences peacefully, for the benefit of all.

The recent events underline the importance of continued presence and work of international community in Kosovo. The EU supports the efforts of EULEX and KFOR to de-escalate tensions on the ground and to maintain security, and we call on all sides to co-operate with them.

The EU reiterates that it is of crucial importance that Pristina and Belgrade continue engaging in the EU-facilitated dialogue. In this context, we call on both sides to ensure and facilitate full implementation of the agreements reached so far in order to ease peoples' lives in Kosovo. We also urge them to resolve outstanding issues through this dialogue, including the Integrated Border Management.

In this context, the EU expects that progress will be made at the EU-facilitated dialogue meeting of November 30 and looks forward to further positive outcomes at future rounds of dialogue.

The candidate countries CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ICELAND**, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

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

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