

## Spanish Presidency of the European Union

OSCE Permanent Council No. 794  
10 February 2010

### **Declaration by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the European Union on the ratification of Protocol 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights by the Russian Federation**

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The European Union (EU) would like to recall the statement by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation on 28<sup>th</sup> January and draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the “Declaration by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the European Union on the ratification of Protocol 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights by the Russian Federation”, as issued on 4 February 2010:

“The EU welcomes the ratification of Protocol 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights by the Russian Federation, which allows its entry into force.

The application of Protocol 14 will reinforce the Convention and make the European Court of Human Rights more effective and efficient, thereby strengthening its crucial role in the protection of human rights in Europe.

The EU considers the entry into force of Protocol 14 an essential and integral part of the current overall reform process of the European system of human rights protection and is therefore looking forward to cooperating constructively on furthering these reforms at the ministerial conference in Interlaken.

Protocol 14 also provides an enabling clause for accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights.

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, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

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