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**EUROPEAN UNION**

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## **EU statement on the appointment of H.E. Ambassador Lamberto Zannier to the post of the Secretary General of the OSCE**

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The European Union warmly welcomes the appointment of H.E. Ambassador Lamberto Zannier to the post of Secretary General of the OSCE.

As the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton pointed out in her statement issued for this occasion on June 30, given the impressive record of Ambassador Zannier in working for international peace and security, the EU is confident that the choice will further strengthen the Organisation. His long-standing experience with the OSCE, including as Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre and his work on conventional arms control issues, is a guarantee that he will provide outstanding leadership to our Organisation, both on political and management issues.

The EU hopes that, under the guidance of Ambassador Zannier, the OSCE Secretariat will continue to provide valuable input to the debate on European security, including in the run-up to the Vilnius Ministerial Council.

The EU remains fully committed to the long-standing EU-OSCE co-operation and we look forward to working with Ambassador Zannier in using the full potential of this co-operation in promoting security and stability throughout the OSCE area.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\* and MONTENEGRO\* the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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