



## EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 875  
Vienna, 22 July 2011**

### **EU statement on the arrest of Goran Hadžić**

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As underlined in the Joint Statement by President Van Rompuy, President Barroso and High Representative Ashton, issued on 20 July 2011, the European Union strongly welcomes the arrest of Goran Hadžić by Serbia's authorities.

At this time, our thoughts and sympathies are with all those who suffered and lost loved ones during the conflict throughout the former Yugoslavia.

The arrest of Mr Hadžić, the last remaining ICTY fugitive, is a crucial step for international justice. We expect him to be transferred without delay to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

The EU commends Serbia's authorities on the arrest, which sends a positive signal to us and to Serbia's neighbours, but most of all on the rule of law in Serbia itself. The Serbian nation is in the process of confronting the past and turning the page to a better European future. We reiterate our commitment to Serbia's European perspective. Full co-operation with the ICTY, including continuing the good support to ongoing trials, will remain an essential element of Serbia's way towards the European Union.

The EU is confident that the arrest of Mr Hadžić will provide added impetus to reconciliation throughout the region, and reiterates wholeheartedly its support for regional initiatives to accelerate reform and reinforce stability.

The candidate countries TURKEY, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, 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.

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