

## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 881st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 22 September 2011

### **Regarding the terrorist attack in Ankara on 20 September**

As the High Representative of the European Union and Vice-President of the European Commission Catharine Ashton stated, the European Union is saddened by the attack that took place in Ankara on Tuesday, 20 September, causing considerable loss of human life and damage to property. We strongly condemn this attack.

In these tragic circumstances, we express our very sincere condolences to the families of the victims and offer our deepest sympathy and our support to the Turkish authorities and people.

In the face of this indiscriminate violence, for which there can be no justification, the European Union reiterates its determination to combat unrelentingly, in accordance with international law and with respect for human rights, the terrorist organizations and the networks that support them. We support Turkey in its fight against terrorism and will continue to work closely with that country both at bilateral and multilateral levels in order to eradicate this menace, regardless of the form in which it manifested.

The candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro<sup>1</sup> and Iceland<sup>2</sup>, the Stabilisation and Association Process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area.