



EUROPEAN UNION

**Permanent Council Nr 881
Vienna, 22 September 2011**

EU statement on the killing of the head of Afghanistan's High Peace Council

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the statement by the spokesperson of the EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on the killing of the head of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, issued on 21 September, in which it was stated:

"Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the European Commission, today strongly condemned the murder of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, the Head of Afghanistan's High Peace Council. She praised his relentless efforts in achieving peace and in reaching out to the Afghan nation.

The High Representative expressed her deep concern about the continued violence against Afghan officials and the Afghan Government as they are working hard to take their country towards a more secure and prosperous future. She stressed that such attacks only strengthen the resolve of the EU and international community at large to continue to work with the Afghan people as the nation has embarked on the path of reconciliation.

She expressed her heartfelt condolences to Professor Rabbani's family expressed hope for a full and speedy recovery of Masoom Stanekzai, the Head

of the Joint Secretariat of the High Peace Council. She also extended her sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims of the attack."