



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**Permanent Council Nr 903**  
**Vienna, 1 March 2012**

**EU statement on the verdict of Yuriy Lutsenko in Ukraine**

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The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Stefan Füle on the verdict in the case of Mr Yuriy Lutsenko, in which they stated on 27 February in Brussels:

“We are disappointed with the verdict against Mr Lutsenko, which signals the continuation of trials in Ukraine which do not respect international standards as regards fair, transparent and independent legal process.

We recall that the EU-Ukraine Summit of 19 December stated that respect for the Rule of Law will be of crucial importance for the speed of Ukraine’s political association and economic integration with the EU. We also note the recent resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the functioning of democratic institutions in Ukraine.

We will continue to monitor closely developments related to the appeals process of Mr Lutsenko, the review of the case of Mrs Yulia Tymoshenko by the High Specialized Court of Ukraine for Civil and Criminal Cases, and

proceedings in the case of the former Acting Minister of Defence, Valeriy Ivashchenko, as well as in other similar cases”.

Mr Chairperson,

In addition, the EU reiterates its willingness to work with Ukraine as a future Chair and expects Ukraine to demonstrate to the OSCE community its unequivocal adherence to OSCE values, principles and commitments.

The acceding country CROATIA\*, the candidate countries THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, 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 EFTA and the European Economic Area.