



se2009.eu

PC.DEL/736/09  
17 September 2009

ENGLISH only

## Swedish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 774  
Vienna 17 September 2009**

### **EU statement in response to the report by the Director of the CPC, Ambassador Salber, on border-related issues**

---

The European Union would like to thank the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Ambassador Salber, for his update on border-related issues.

The EU wishes to express its appreciation for the work taken forward by the OSCE in the area of border security and management.

Modern border management is instrumental in facilitating the licit movement of goods and persons and helping to address criminal activity and threats to national and regional security. The EU is committed to supporting the development of modern border management in the OSCE area, in particular through introduction of the principles of integrated border management and the promotion of regional cooperation, in close cooperation with all stakeholders.

The EU supports OSCE activities aimed at the implementation of its Border Security and Management Concept. We welcome the provision of increased support across the OSCE region, including progress in the implementation of the OSCE border projects in Central Asia and the increased involvement of Partners for cooperation both as donors and participants. The EU attaches high importance to continuing implementation of MC decision 4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan.

The EU welcomes the recent opening of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and the planned start of its operational activity this year. We believe that the Staff College can play a meaningful role in promoting international standards on many aspects of border management both within the OSCE area and among OSCE Partners for Cooperation, including Afghanistan. A long term development strategy would strengthen its role.

---

*Postal address*  
Obere Donaustrasse 49-51  
1020 Vienna, Austria

*Visitor's address*  
Obere Donaustrasse 49-51  
1020 Vienna, Austria

*Telephone*  
+43 (0) 1 217 53 0

*Fax*  
+43 (0) 1 217 53 380

*E-mail: osse-del.wien@foreign.ministry.se*  
*euoffice@osce.org*

The European Union also welcomes conclusion of the development of a National Border Management Strategy by the authorities of Tajikistan, with assistance from the OSCE. We view the impending approval of the Strategy and its implementation plan by the President of Tajikistan as a significant achievement. The Strategy will offer international stakeholders an opportunity to strengthen their policy dialogue with the Tajik authorities and will serve as a framework for the coordination and harmonization of assistance. The EU looks forward to implementation, which we believe would be aided by a more detailed action plan, selecting priorities and spelling out costs in a medium-term framework, as well as by the establishment of a coordination mechanism under the leadership of the Tajik authorities and open to donors. We would like to stress the importance of Tajik ownership for the successful implementation of the Strategy. The EU is committed to supporting the Tajik authorities in implementing the Strategy through ongoing and future cooperation activities. Possible EU-funded support may be made available through the EU BOMCA (Border Management in Central Asia) programme.

The EU appreciates OSCE activities in the area of customs assistance and their focus on building capacity for the benefit of both OSCE participating States and Afghanistan. In particular, we commend OSCE support for the creation of the National Customs Training Facility of Kyrgyzstan, at the request of the Kyrgyz authorities following the OSCE border assessment.

We view the conduct of customs training and border patrolling training in Turkmenistan, with the participation of Afghan officials, as a first step, on which future activities should build.

We value OSCE efforts to contribute to enhanced border management and security along the Tajik-Afghan border and to foster cross-border cooperation between the Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan. Also in this context, the EU recalls the high importance it attaches to sustaining the implementation of MC Decision 4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan, which, we believe, can make a significant contribution for stability and security in the region. We would welcome further consideration of how this might be taken forward.

We see merit in reviewing how best to maximize the efficiency of OSCE efforts and engaging a forward-looking discussion on the further development of OSCE activities to build on the current momentum.

We are pleased to note that cooperation between the EU, the OSCE and other key stakeholders on border management issues has been substantially intensified. We look forward to sustained efforts to strengthen synergy as activities develop.

In October 2008, some European Union Member States and the European Commission, together with the OSCE and other key partners, co-sponsored the Ministerial Conference on Border management and Drug Control in Central Asia, held in Dushanbe, at which participants expressed a commitment to taking forward reinforced cooperation and closer donor coordination. Subsequently, the EU Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI) has been extended to become a coordination platform for all stakeholders in the areas of border management and drug control in Central Asia, including OSCE. CABSI activities complement the useful mechanism offered by the Border International Group. The next CABSI meeting, which will focus on

promoting regional cooperation in Central Asia at all levels, will be hosted by Uzbekistan in Tashkent on 30 September - 1 October 2009. The representatives of several EU Member States and the European Commission will participate, as well as the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Ambassador Morel. We appreciate that the OSCE will be represented by Ambassador Salber.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\* and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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