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PC.DEL/1609/20  
18 November 2020

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1289th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 November 2020

### **On the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone**

The European Union welcomes the cessation of hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. It has taken note of the Russia-brokered ceasefire agreement concluded between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Thanks to this, it will be possible to prevent further loss of life, especially among the civilian population, on whom the resumption of armed clashes has taken a heavy toll. We hope that this ceasefire agreement is but a first step towards a comprehensive settlement.

The complete halt to the fighting should pave the way for the resumption of substantive negotiations between the parties with a view to achieving a political settlement of the entire Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In that regard, the European Union continues to support the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group in the search for a negotiated and lasting solution. It stands ready to further support their initiatives and those of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, and remains for its part fully committed to efforts to establish lasting peace and promote prosperous development in the region.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, Serbia<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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<sup>1</sup> The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.