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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 822nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 8 July 2010

Regarding Kyrgyzstan

The European Union (EU) welcomes the fact that the OSCE has firmly reiterated its offer to assist Kyrgyzstan in the political statement delivered by the Permanent Council (PC.DOC/2/10) last Friday. In this context we welcome the discussions held with the Representative of the Kyrgyz authorities present in Vienna which the Conflict Prevention Centre has just reported on and we hope that these discussions will contribute to clarifying any remaining questions. We also hope that agreement will be reached without further delay on the modalities for the deployment of an OSCE police force to Kyrgyzstan to help stabilize the situation in certain areas of the country.

The EU recalls that OSCE co-operation with Kyrgyzstan covers a large area of activity within the framework of the overall OSCE mandate in Kyrgyzstan. It is our wish that the Centre in Bishkek intensify its activities in the three dimensions. In particular, the EU desires more intense reconciliation activities with the support of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

In this context, the EU considers it appropriate that an independent investigation into the events of June 2010 would benefit from international expertise. In this respect, we take note that the Kyrgyz authorities have invited the Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for Central Asia, Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen, to co-ordinate the establishment of an international commission of inquiry into the tragic events in co-operation with a Kyrgyz national commission of inquiry.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE stands at a crossroads with respect to providing a political response and the nature of the aid to be accorded Kyrgyzstan. The EU would like to remind the partners gathered together here around the table that the international community is counting on the OSCE to assist Kyrgyzstan in taking the path to stability, to democracy and to prosperity. One week before the Informal OSCE Ministerial Meeting in Almaty we hope that we will be able collectively to meet the expectations.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia^{*}, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland, the Stabilisation and Association Process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, San Marino and Andorra, align themselves with this statement.

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