



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council 887
Vienna, 10 November 2011

EU statement on the Ministerial Review Conference on Solving the Refugee Situation in the Western Balkans

The European Union would like to thank the delegations of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia for their statement on the Ministerial Review Conference on Solving the Refugee Situation in the Western Balkans, held on 7 November in Belgrade.

The European Union supports the intensification of regional co-operation in the Western Balkans, including through important efforts aimed at finally resolving the outstanding issue of refugees and IDPs. In this context, we welcome the outcomes of the Ministerial Review Conference, particularly the adoption of a Joint Declaration “On Ending Displacement and Ensuring Durable Solutions for Vulnerable Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons”.

We have a special interest in this process, as the European Union, together with the OSCE and UNHCR, is closely engaged in promoting just, comprehensive and durable solutions for the problems of refugees and IDPs in the Western Balkans. This was, among other things, illustrated by the participation of Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle in the Ministerial Review Conference in Belgrade.

The European Union is ready to provide support to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia in their future efforts to ensure swift implementation of agreements reflected in the Joint Declaration signed by the four countries.