



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 949
Vienna, 25 April 2013**

**EU statement on the outcome of the Belgrade - Pristina
dialogue**

The EU is highly encouraged by the historic agreement reached between Belgrade and Pristina on Friday 19th April 2013 in the context of the dialogue facilitated by the EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton.

The agreement represents an important step in the process of normalisation of relations and constitutes a break-through, which should serve as an example and impulse for the whole region.

The EU pays tribute to the courage and far-sightedness of the leaders of the two sides, Ivica Dacic and Hashim Thaci who, amid a multitude of internal and external pressures, have opted for a constructive agreement which will benefit the entire region. In this context, we would also like to highlight the committed and indefatigable role of High Representative Ashton and her team in facilitating the dialogue and their readiness to remain engaged in this process.

The EU encourages all sides to proceed with the swift and complete implementation of this, and those earlier agreements which still remain to be implemented. This will contribute to allowing more concrete development of the European perspectives of both sides.

The EU supports the role envisaged in the agreement for the OSCE to facilitate municipal elections in 2013 in the northern municipalities in accordance with applicable law and international standards and calls upon the OSCE to begin preparations in due course and in close coordination with the parties.

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

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.