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**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 925
Vienna, 11 October 2012**

**EU statement in response to the address by H.E. Mr
Riccardo Migliori, President of the OSCE Parliamentary
Assembly**

The European Union warmly welcomes the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, H.E. Mr. Riccardo Migliori, to the Permanent Council and thank him for his presentation on the Parliamentary Assembly's (PA) main activities.

On the occasion of Mr Migliori's first visit to the OSCE Permanent Council, we would like to avail ourselves of the opportunity to warmly congratulate him on his election. We hope that the constructive relationship between the OSCE, its institutions and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly that prevailed during the period in office of his predecessor, President Efthymiou, will continue under his stewardship.

The EU fully acknowledges the valuable contribution made by the parliamentarians from all 56 OSCE participating States to our Organisation.

We strongly support the OSCE PA's longstanding commitment to the strong engagement of civil society in all fields of OSCE activities.

We appreciate the OSCE PA's engagement in promoting our common OSCE commitments, notably in the area of democratic elections, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the protection of human rights defenders and the rule of law.

We take note of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's intensive discussions, in particular those at its 21th Annual Session in Monaco, where we have seen the adoption of a final declaration and of resolutions touching upon a number of topics concerning all three dimensions.

Mr Chairperson,

One of the most visible contributions of the OSCE PA to the overall work of the OSCE relates to election observation. We have on many occasions reiterated our position on the complementary roles of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the ODIHR in this common endeavour. We believe that the OSCE's election observation activity is never as strong as when both institutions cooperate with each other as genuine partners, bringing their respective strengths to the table and, most importantly, speak with a single voice. We encourage the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and ODIHR to continue co-operating in the spirit of partnership and on the basis of the 1997 Co-operation Agreement as well as MC Decision 19/06. In this regard, we commend the OSCE PA and the ODIHR for their co-operation in a series of crucial election observation missions throughout this year, including the recent parliamentary elections in Belarus and Georgia. We look forward to that cooperation continuing in forthcoming elections.

Mr Chairperson,

In concluding, we would like to wish H.E. President Migliori, his colleagues in the Bureau of the OSCE PA, as well as his staff every success for their future work. We look forward to continuing our close co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The forthcoming OSCE Ministerial Meeting in Dublin will provide us with another opportunity for a fruitful interaction.

The Accessing Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia 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.