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**Permanent Council No. 741
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**EU response to Ambassador Kopaj,
OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine**

The European Union warmly welcomes the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) Ambassador Kopaj for his first appearance at the Permanent Council and thanks him for his comprehensive report.

The EU appreciates the Project Co-ordinator's continued work in Ukraine and fully supports present and planned activities, which cover all three dimensions of the OSCE, with a view to focusing PCU resources on areas in which others are not providing assistance, and where it has special expertise.

We support efforts to reflect the needs and priorities of the host country. The EU encourages the PCU's efforts to increase efficiency of his work by bringing the number and type of the projects more in line with available resources and supports an approach to developing and implementing projects that involve transfer of responsibilities to Ukrainian institutions and are based on clear exit strategies.

The EU reiterates its support for the Democratization and Good Governance Programme which remains at the core of the PCU's activities. In this regard, we fully endorse special emphasis the PCU places on finalizing electoral reform

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in Ukraine and consider that establishment of functional State Voter Register is a key priority meriting increased attention.

We also support the PCU's continued assistance to Ukraine's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, in particular in addressing the problem of trafficking in children, and are pleased to note that the respective activities will be closely co-ordinated with the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and ODIHR.

As to the Cross-Dimensional Program, the EU welcomes the PCU's continued willingness to assist the Ukrainian authorities to dispose of toxic rocket fuel (mélange) stockpiles. We are thankful for advice and support provided for OSCE officials involved in this project.

Overall the EU commends PCU's efforts to increase effectiveness of its operations and expects that steps taken, including setting up of a three person Project Management Cell, will enhance internal co-ordination and result in greater compliance with OSCE project management guidelines in comprehensive manner.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Ambassador Kopaj for his dedicated work and wish him the best of success in his future activities.

La Turquie, la Croatie* et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine*, pays candidats ; l'Albanie, la Bosnie - Herzégovine, le Monténégro et la Serbie, pays du processus de stabilisation et d'association et candidats potentiels ; l'Islande, le Liechtenstein et la Norvège, pays de l'Association Européenne de libre-échange et membres de l'Espace économique européen ; ainsi que la République de Moldavie, l'Arménie et la Géorgie se rallient à cette déclaration.

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*La Croatie et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine continuent à participer au processus de stabilisation et d'association.

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