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## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1039th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 February 2015

### **Regarding the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh**

The European Union is gravely concerned by the most recent armed incidents that have claimed victims along the line of contact in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the State border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, including among the civilian population.

We thank the Secretariat for the information provided to the Permanent Council on the deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We also thank the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Kasprzyk, and his team for the precise reports on the incidents that have taken place along the line of contact in the past few weeks.

We condemn any use of force and call on the parties involved to refrain from all activities that could fuel the tension. As the European Union Special Representative stressed during his visit to the region, immediate observance of the ceasefire and the non-use of force are essential to ensure that the efforts aimed at resolving the conflict peacefully can succeed.

We welcome the very swift initiatives taken by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group to defuse the tension and promote the resumption of the dialogue by going to Krakow on 27 January to meet Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, and to Munich on 5 February, where talks were held with Mr. Edward Nalbandian, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia. We thank them for the statements made on those occasions, which we fully support. In this context we also welcome the statement by the Chairperson-in-Office and the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group in Munich on 7 February.

We again express our full support for the mediation carried out by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, Iceland<sup>2</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association country and

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1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area.

Member of the European Economic Area Lichtenstein, as well as Monaco and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.