

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
AT THE 894th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 15 December 2011

Regarding the attack in Liège, Belgium

The European Union condemns in the strongest terms the particularly deadly attack that occurred in the centre of Liège, which claimed several lives and injured more than a hundred passers-by.

Today our thoughts are naturally with the victims of this indiscriminate and unjustifiable violence and with their families, to whom we extend our sincerest condolences. We sympathize with the injured and wish them a complete and speedy recovery. We assure the Belgian authorities of our solidarity in the face of this cruel ordeal experienced by one of the members of the European Union

The circumstances of this attack encourage us to continue relentlessly in our efforts, in conformity with international law and in respect of human rights, to fight against all forms of crime, in particular trafficking in arms and explosives.

The acceding country Croatia, the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro¹ and Iceland², the Stabilisation and Association Process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

1 Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro 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.