



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Secretariat**

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Conference Services

At the request of the OSCE Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the attached statement delivered to the 586th Meeting of the Permanent Council on 22 December 2005 is being distributed to all OSCE delegations.

Intervention by the Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia at the
Permanent Council meeting No. 586, 22 December, 2005

Mr. Chairman

At the outset I would like to express our gratitude to the representatives of the EU member states upon the decision taken by the European Council to grant the Republic of Macedonia EU candidate status.

We regard the positive decision of the European Council as a strong motivation to keep on advancing the overall reform process in the country. Granting Macedonia the status is also a strong encouragement for our commitment to follow the road map towards the European integration and finally become a part of the EU by fulfilling the necessary criteria for the full-fledged membership. There is a lot we have to do on that road and we are strongly committed to do the utmost in order to meet the European standards. In that regard I would like to inform you that, immediately after the positive decision by the European Council on 16 December the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on 17 December has adopted the European Partnership Action Plan. We would like to assure you that we have the courage, the capacity and the knowledge for fulfilling this crucial task. Let me briefly mention the already adopted constitutional changes necessary for the reform of the justice system, the new law on police soon to be adopted, the proposed changes of the electoral legislation aimed at insuring the truly democratic parliamentary elections in 2006 and finally the adoption of laws for one stop shop system to attract foreign investments.

Mr. Chairman,

By granting candidate status to Macedonia European Council sent a very strong and encouraging signal to the rest of the region that the perspective of its integration to the EU is a real one. The dream of many generations in the Balkans to become a part of united Europe could finally come true. We would like to thank the British EU Presidency for its contribution to bring the region closer to the EU. I would also like to express our satisfaction by the fact that Balkan's European integration is one of the priorities on the agenda of the Austrian incoming Presidency.

In closing Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Albania, Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina for the statement just made on their behalf by the distinguished Ambassador Garcevic.