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**STATEMENT BY  
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 739<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 November 2008

**In response to the report by the Special Representative and Co-ordinator  
for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

The European Union welcomes the Special Representative to the Permanent Council and commends her for the quality of her annual report.

The European Union shares the concerns of the Special Representative regarding all the forms of trafficking, particularly in view of the low level of identification of victims and the small numbers of traffickers convicted.

Firmly committed to combating this evil, the European Union considers that action must be taken simultaneously on three fronts: prevention, the protection of victims and the prosecution of those responsible.

The European Union is convinced that it would be useful for every State to have specific co-ordination and reporting structures for trafficking in human beings, and endorses the recommendations made in chapter 5 of the annual report.

The European Union intends to continue to co-operate fully with the Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. It reiterates its full support for her in her current and future projects.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia and the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Lichtenstein, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia, align themselves with this statement.

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\* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.