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Prohlášení

Statement

Déclaration

Vienna 14 May 2009

Permanent Council No. 761

EU Statement in response to the National Border Strategy Coordinator and first deputy Chairman of the State Committee on National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, Major-General Gafarov

The EU welcomes the National Border Strategy Coordinator and first deputy Chairman of the State Committee on National Security of Tajikistan, Major-General Gafarov, to the Permanent Council.

We are grateful to Major-General Gafarov for the information provided on ongoing initiatives in the area of border security and management in Tajikistan.

The European Union acknowledges the work accomplished by the National Border Strategy Working Group of Tajikistan, under the leadership of Major-General Gafarov and with assistance from the OSCE, notably the Borders Team and the OSCE Office, in developing a National Border Management Strategy and its respective implementation plan. We see the finalisation of a draft that gathers the consensus of all Tajik stakeholders in this sensitive area as an achievement in itself.

The EU attaches great importance to the finalisation and implementation of the National Border Strategy and its implementation plan. The Strategy

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will offer international stakeholders an opportunity to strengthen their policy dialogue with the Tajik authorities and will serve as a framework for the coordination and harmonization of assistance with a view to achieving strategic objectives.

We welcome circulation of the draft Strategy and implementation plan to international stakeholders in Dushanbe and the opportunity offered to us to provide feedback before the document is submitted to the Government of Tajikistan for approval. We view the current draft as an excellent basis for further discussions. In particular, we welcome the inclusion of the basic principles of integrated border management. Some initial remarks, comments and suggestions on the detail of the draft have already been presented in Dushanbe.

The EU is actively engaged in the area of border security and management in Tajikistan and the whole of Central Asia, notably through its BOMCA (Border Management in Central Asia) programme and CADAP (Central Asia Drug Action Programme). The EU Strategy for a New Partnership with Central Asia identifies modern border management as key to combating common threats and challenges. Thus, the EU has provided significant assistance to support the development of modern border management in the region and we are committed to continuing our engagement in future.

The EU greatly values its cooperation with the OSCE on border management issues. As a complement to EU BOMCA and in coordination with it, the EU supports OSCE efforts to contribute to enhanced border management and security in Central Asia, within the framework of the Border Security and Management Concept, including as regards the Tajik-

Afghan border, as well as efforts to implement MC decision 07/04 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan. The EU attaches great importance to the establishment of the regional OSCE Border Management Staff College which is to be opened at the end of May. In October 2008, some European Union Member States and the European Commission, together with the OSCE and other key partners, co-sponsored the Ministerial Conference on Border management and Drug Control in Central Asia, hosted by the President and Government of Tajikistan in Dushanbe. We are committed to taking forward reinforced inter-agency, regional and international cooperation and closer donor coordination to meet current challenges.

The EU is committed to supporting the Tajik authorities in implementing the prospective Border Management Strategy through ongoing and future cooperation activities. We would like to stress the importance of Tajik ownership for the successful implementation of the Strategy. EU-funded support may be made available through BOMCA, which comprises components related to institutional reform, enhancing professional skills, strengthening counter drugs capacities in agencies working at borders, and border crossing points and border outposts.

We look forward to continuing discussions and cooperation with the National Border Strategy Coordinator, Major-General Gafarov, and other partners active in the area of border security and management in Tajikistan.

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, the European Free Trade

Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ARMENIA align themselves with this statement.

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