



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 932
Vienna, 22 November 2012**

EU statement in response to the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra, H.E. Mr Gilbert Saboya i Sunyé

The European Union welcomes H.E. Mr Gilbert Saboya i Sunyé, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra, to the Permanent Council, congratulates him and his country on the assumption of the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and thanks him for his statement in this capacity. We reiterate our support to the broad co-operation and regular dialogue between the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The two organisations share, along with the European Union, the same values and principles. We see them as complementary in the promotion of the norms and commitments stemming from these common values and principles.

We fully support the Council of Europe and its mission, at whose core lies the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. We, in the OSCE, recognize that security and stability are intimately linked to all of the above. We are pleased to see that the priorities outlined here today by the Minister are driven by the need to accomplish this vital mission. We particularly support the Andorran Chairmanship's endeavours to ensure the effectiveness of the Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to conclude the negotiations on the EU's accession to the Convention.

Co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe is based on a solid framework and is well established. This is the case not only in the four key areas of terrorism, trafficking in human beings, TND, and the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, but also in other thematic areas of

mutual work, such as election observation, Roma and Sinti, media freedom and democratization. We remain convinced that combatting all forms of discrimination, including against LGBT persons, is another area we should jointly focus on.

We welcome the opening last year of a Council of Europe liaison office in Vienna. We see merit in our two organizations following one another's day to day work, something that would help avoid duplications and maximize synergies, co-operation, and effectiveness in the work of both. In this vein, we wish to also stress the potential offered by co-operation between the European Union, the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

Finally, we restate our commitment to meaningful and effective co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe and are ready to examine, in this respect, the suggestions made by Professor Ulfstein in his report, also in conjunction with the report prepared by Ambassador Lundin on the OSCE's relationship with other relevant international organisations.

We would like once more to thank H.E. Mr Saboya i Sunyé, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra, for his address and wish him and his country all the best in the exercise of their functions as Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

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

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.