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Irish Presidency of the European Union

Permanent Council No. 499 11 March 2004

EU Statement of welcome to Mr Miklos Haraszti, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

The European Union congratulates Mr Miklos Haraszti on his appointment to this important and challenging task. We assure him of our wholehearted support and cooperation in carrying out his mandate.

The EU regards freedom of expression as a fundamental and internationally recognized human right and a basic component of a democratic society. It regards free independent and pluralist media as essential to a free and open society and an accountable system of government. It would like to emphasise the need to follow closely the media situation in the OSCE area including the possibility for journalists to work freely and unhindered and to enjoy the necessary freedom of movement in carrying out their professional tasks.

The Acceding Countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia and the Candidate Countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey align themselves with this statement