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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 835th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 11 November 2010

In response to the presentation by His Excellency Mr. Pavlo Klimkin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union (EU) welcomes His Excellency Mr. Pavlo Klimkin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, to this meeting of the Permanent Council and thanks him for his presentation.

The European Union wishes to underscore the particular importance of Ukraine for the EU and for the stability and democratic development of the region, as demonstrated by the EU-Ukraine Summit to be held on 22 November. The European Union encourages the Ukrainian authorities to continue the reforms aimed at ensuring the stability and prosperity of the country as well as respect for human rights, the rule of law and democratic principles.

The European Union recognizes once again the European aspirations of Ukraine and welcomes that country's choice in favour of Europe. It is our wish to continue on the path of negotiations with the aim of concluding an association agreement, including a more extensive and comprehensive free-trade zone. We also hope to make progress in our dialogue on the liberalization of visa regimes. In this context, Ukraine's continued involvement in the Eastern Partnership constitutes another framework for strengthening relations between the EU and Ukraine and between Ukraine and the other countries of the Eastern Partnership, all of whom are OSCE participating States.

Like His Excellency the Deputy Minister, we hope that the Astana Summit will introduce a new strategic vision of a future security community in the OSCE area and will establish a specific and ambitious plan of action, including mandates and measures to be taken in the three dimensions of the OSCE.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union welcomes the bid by Ukraine to assume the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2013 and its desire to play a leading role in the Organization and to promote respect for its values, principles and commitments.

We note with satisfaction Ukraine's intention to consult extensively with its partners regarding the priorities to be pursued, should it exercise the Chairmanship of the Organization in 2013, following Lithuania and Ireland.

In conclusion, the European Union wishes to thank Mr. Klimkin once again for his presentation to the Permanent Council today and wishes him and his country every success in the tasks ahead of them.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia¹, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ and Iceland², the Stabilisation and Association Process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area Norway, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area.