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**Présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne**

**Conseil permanent No. 737  
30 octobre 2008**

**EU response to the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and  
Environmental Activities, Mr. Bernard Snoy**

The European Union warmly welcomes the Coordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Bernard Snoy to the PC and thanks him for his report.

The EU reiterates its position that as a security and cooperation organization, the OSCE has an important role to play in areas where there is a link between security and the environment. We recall the importance of making full use of the organization's comprehensive approach to security in order to build confidence, promote stability and to respond to threats and challenges to security resulting from economic and environmental factors. The EU supports any effort of the OSCE aimed at stimulating political dialogue, including at a sub-regional level, on the role of economic development and environmental protection in furthering and maintaining peace, stability and security.

We have listened with great interest to Mr. Snoy's presentation of the main findings and recommendations of the Joint OSCE-UNEP Environmental Mission to Georgia to assess the environmental consequences of the recent conflict. The EU would like to thank Mr. Snoy for the efforts taken and fully supports his

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approach, which underlines the relevance of the second dimension for conflict prevention and confidence building.

Mr. Chairman, the European Commission and the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy in March of this year submitted to the European Council a paper on Climate Change and International Security. In this paper it is said, *inter alia*, that climate change is to be seen as a threat multiplier which exacerbates existing trends, tensions and instability. The EU believes that the OSCE, within its mandate, and respecting the leading role of the UN, can address this issue, which may become a source of tension or even conflict between participating States.

As stated on 19 June, the EU believes that we all need to look ahead and promote a more strategic view in the second dimension in order to build upon the progress made in this field. The EU welcomes the launch, by the Finnish Chairmanship, of debate on the future orientation of the economic and environmental dimension. Long-term planning, continuity, prioritization, focus on environmental and economic issues linked to security, as well as OSCE involvement on security consequences of environmental challenges are issues of high priority for the EU.

Finally, as this is Mr. Snoy's last appearance before the PC, we would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to convey our high appreciation for his excellent work throughout his mandate and wish him all the best for his personal and professional future.

La Turquie, la Croatie\* et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine\*, pays candidats ; l'Albanie, la Bosnie - Herzégovine, le Monténégro et la Serbie, pays du processus de stabilisation et d'association et candidats potentiels ; l'Islande, le Liechtenstein et la Norvège, pays de l'Association Européenne de

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libre-échange et membres de l'Espace économique européen ; ainsi que l'Arménie se rallient à cette déclaration.

\*La Croatie et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine continuent à participer au processus de stabilisation et d'association.

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