

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1000th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 15 May 2014

On Nagorno-Karabakh

The European Union fully supports the statement by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group of 12 May on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the 1994 ceasefire agreement. As the Co-Chairmen pointed out, the agreement brought an end to outright war but did not resolve the conflict. The absence of a final settlement is felt strongly in particular by the people.

The European Union remains highly concerned by the reports of recurrent armed incidents along the frontline and the continued high level of fatalities. We condemn all use of force and urge the parties concerned to avoid any action that could feed tensions. To this end, we call on the parties to observe strict respect for the ceasefire they have agreed to, to desist from incursions on either side of the line of contact and to show restraint in the field and in their public statements. The European Union calls on the parties to undertake additional efforts and confidence-building measures to reinforce the ceasefire and strengthen the peace process.

The European Union takes the opportunity to reiterate its complete confidence in the Co-Chairmen to continue to seek a political, equitable and lasting settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which it regards as vital for the region's future. We invite the parties to seek constructive dialogue and encourage them to take better advantage of the efforts of the Co-Chairmen.

The European Union reiterates its support for all of the principles without exception proposed by the Presidents of the French Republic, the United States of America and the Russian Federation in their statements from 2009 to 2013. In the context of the resumption of high-level dialogue last November, we support the appeal to the parties by the Co-Chairmen to embark on constructive negotiations in good faith with a view to reaching a peace agreement.

The European Union is willing to provide increased support to the efforts to settle the conflict in the framework of the development and establishment of confidence-building measures supporting and complementing the Minsk Group, with a view to facilitating the next stages in the implementation of peace.

The European Union welcomes the work accomplished, sometimes in difficult security conditions, by the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Kasprzyk, and his team. It attaches the greatest importance to the unobstructed

continuation of their observation of the ceasefire along the line of contact and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Iceland² and Serbia¹, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the members of the European Free Trade Association Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

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

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