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Delegation**

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United Kingdom Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**Permanent Council No. 586
22 December 2005**

**EU Statement on European Council Decision to grant Candidate
Country Status to the Former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia**

The EU wishes to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to last week's European Council decision to grant candidate country status to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which marks an important step towards that country's rapprochement with the European Union.