



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE

EU2007.PT
Portugal 2007- Presidency of the European Union

Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

687th Meeting of the Permanent Council
8th November 2007

EU Presidency Statement on the initialling of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia

I would like to draw the attention of participating States to the following European Union Presidency Statement on the initialling of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia, issued on the 7th November 2007, and I quote:

“The EU Presidency warmly welcomes the initialling by the European Commission and the Serbian representatives of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia, which took place today, 7 November, in Brussels. This is an important step towards the establishment of contractual relations between the EU and Serbia, which demonstrates the EU's firm commitment to Serbia's European perspective.

The EU is willing to sign the agreement as soon as possible, provided that the necessary conditions are met. In this regard, the EU Presidency calls on the Serbian authorities to strengthen their efforts in order to rapidly achieve full cooperation with the ICTY.

The EU Presidency encourages the Serbian authorities to intensify the necessary reforms and to fulfil the Copenhagen criteria, as well as the requirements of the Stabilisation and Association Process, to achieve strong progress towards Serbia's integration into the EU.

The EU Presidency reaffirms that Serbia's future lies within the EU and that the Union stands ready to work closely with Serbia towards this goal." End of quote.