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EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Special Permanent Council Nr 845
Vienna, 23 December 2010**

EU statement on Azerbaijan

In the light of the OSCE Office in Baku spot report of 17 December 2010 as well as information from its own sources, the EU expresses its concern at the human rights violations allegedly committed in the village of Puysan in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic on 10 December 2010 against the family of Mr. Sakhavat Aliyev, former candidate from the opposition Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan-Musavat election bloc in the 7 November Parliamentary Election. The alleged denial of medical assistance to the family merits particular attention.

The EU calls on Azerbaijan to allow for an immediate and independent verification of these allegations, including by an unhindered visit of EU, OSCE and other entitled diplomats to Puysan, in conformity with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. In this context, the EU recalls the respective demarche conducted jointly by the Heads of Mission of the EU and the OSCE on 17 December which received a favorable answer by H.E. Deputy Foreign Minister Mammadgulyev.

The EU fully supports the Human Rights Commissioner of Azerbaijan who has urged the respective authorities of Azerbaijan to investigate and to provide medical assistance for those injured in the alleged assault. The EU expects

Azerbaijan to take the necessary steps without further delay and to inform the OSCE about the results of their investigation and other related measures.

The EU reiterates its support for further political and legal reforms in Azerbaijan aimed at increased convergence with the values and principles promoted both by the OSCE and the EU as well as the Council of Europe, and stands ready to assist the Azerbaijani authorities in their endeavours in this regard, also in the framework of the Eastern Partnership.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The candidate countries CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, ICELAND** and MONTENEGRO*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, as well as the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area NORWAY align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

** Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.