

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE
1094th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 April 2016

**In response to the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group and the
Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt
with by the Minsk Conference**

The European Union welcomes the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group represented by Ambassador James Warlick and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Conference, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, and thanks them for their detailed reports.

As recalled by High Representative Ms. Fédérica Mogherini on 2 April 2016, we are gravely concerned by the intense hostilities that broke out on the night of 2 April and involved the use of heavy weapons. We call on the parties to cease hostilities immediately and to strictly observe the ceasefire. The parties must show restraint and refrain from all acts or statements that could fuel the tension. The European Union condemns the loss of human life, particularly that of civilians. We call on the parties to refrain from all use of force or the threat of the use of force and to resume without delay their efforts aimed at a swift, complete, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We recall the importance of the OSCE's having a mechanism for investigating ceasefire violations at its disposal.

The European Union takes this opportunity to reaffirm its support for the Minsk Group and the Co-Chairmen's statement of 2 April. It reaffirms its full confidence in their ability to make progress in the search for a political, equitable and sustainable solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which it considers essential for the region's future. The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his French counterpart, Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault, have been engaged in sustained dialogue with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan since Saturday 2 April. They will be meeting on this very day in La Celle-Saint-Cloud to continue their joint efforts.

The European Union stands ready to step up its support for the efforts aimed at settling the conflict through Special Representative Mr. Herbert Salber within the framework of establishing confidence-building measures and interpersonal contacts, in a way that supports and fully complements the Minsk Group.

In conclusion, the European Union would like to recall its great appreciation for the work done, sometimes in difficult security conditions, by Personal Representative

Ambassador Kasprzyk and his team. The European Union attaches the greatest importance to their further unhindered ceasefire monitoring activities, which unquestionably help in reducing tension in the region and are a valuable tool for implementing confidence-building measures on the ground.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway, as well as San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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